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KENT ON SUNDAY

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APOLOGY FOR 'UNJUSTIFIED' STRIP SEARCH

Police 'degraded me over my skin colour'



HARASSED: Mr Haynes left UK after incident with police

A FORMER diversity advisor to Kent Police who says he was stopped and strip searched just because he is black has spoken out about his ordeal.

Alioune Haynes was so furious with his treatment at the hands of police officers that he moved from Gillingham to Canada.

Now the Kent constabulary has been forced to make a apology for the way he was stopped, arrested, handcuffed, and strip-searched outside a nightclub.

My Haynes, 31, was also handed £8,500 in compensation in an out-of-court settlement for the incident in 2006. And a senior officer has admitted in a letter the treatment was "unjustified".

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

Ironically, just a month before the arrest, Mr Haynes had given one of several diversity talks to Kent officers about the way some of them were dealing with black people.

And an off-duty black police officer, who was a friend of Mr Haynes, was also strip searched after visiting the nightclub on March 25.

The officer filed an official report about the incident and two officers were due to appear before a disciplinary panel in June, 2008, but that was halted for legal reasons.

From his home in Canada, Mr Haynes told Kent on Sunday: "To constantly be stopped and searched, accused of stealing your own car, watching and hearing about it happening to friends, family and members of the community over a period of years is a horrible thing.

"To try to get into dialogue with the perpetrators, to try to make a difference, and to, on the one hand be congratulated by the same people, and on the other walk back out into the street and to be seen as that 'black bastard' or whatever else they choose to refer to you as or treat you like, is hard.

"To watch a black police officer humiliated in public through no fault of his own, is a difficult thing to deal with. To find out what later happened to him behind closed doors is worse.

"To actually be strip searched without a cause other than knowing and standing up for your rights, and the colour of your skin, is a degrading experience.

"Especially when you know that

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



Picture: VAUGHAN GRYLLS

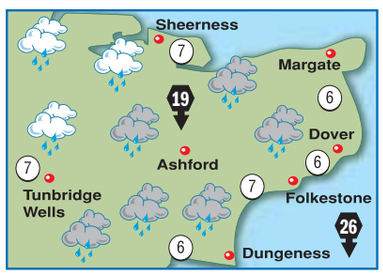
Ruth Ellis brought to life for exhibition

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Kent today



TODAY: Windy. Mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain, mostly during the afternoon. Persistent rain developing in the evening. A risk of a wintry burst. Fresh winds. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **TONIGHT:** Wet for a time. But turning drier with clear spells later. Moderate north-westerly winds. Min temp 2-5C (36-41F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	snow	4	39	London	showers	7	45
Belfast	cloudy	5	41	Liverpool	cloudy	6	43
Birmingham	sleet	5	41	Manchester	cloudy	5	41
B'mouth	showers	7	45	Newcastle	drizzle	5	41
Bristol	showers	6	43	Norwich	rain	6	43
Cardiff	rain	7	45	Oxford	sleet	6	43
Cork	cloudy	6	43	Southsea	showers	7	45
Edinburgh	sleet	5	41	S'hampton	rain	6	43
Glasgow	fair	6	43	Southport	fair	6	43
Isle of Man	cloudy	6	43	Swansea	cloudy	6	43
Leeds	fair	4	39	Torquay	showers	8	46

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.43am	Sunset	5.33pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	5.47pm	Moonset	6.14am	5.33pm to 6.41am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	10.39	6.7	23.03	6.9	11.24	6.8	23.46	7.1
Margate	11.44	4.8	23.58	4.8	–	–	12.30	4.9
St Mary's	04.13	5.9	16.38	5.8	04.58	6.1	17.21	6.0

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells max 7C min 0C

tuesday Patchy cloud max 7C min 1C

wednesday Fairly cloudy max 6C min 1C

thursday Patchy cloud max 8C min 4C

friday A fine day max 9C min 4C

saturday Showers max 9C min 3C

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More first choice placements this year as pupils await class news

By **MARIJKE COX**
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THOUSANDS of primary school children will learn their fate tomorrow as secondary school placements are announced.

Official figures will be released by Kent County Council showing how many of the 17,500 youngsters will be offered their first choice of school.

Last year, 78.5 per cent received first preference placements, with 11.5 per cent being offered their second.

Cllr Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for children, families and education, said this year's figures were even higher.

"We have a very positive set of figures this year," she said. "First preference placements have risen by 10 per cent since 2008."

But Cllr Hohler admitted that not everyone would be happy with their offers.

"In a perfect world every child would go to their first choice, but there are so many popular schools this is just not possible," she said. "A few parents will be bitterly disappointed, but I urge them to look at the school that has been offered, put their name on the waiting list for the school they want and look into appealing.

"I urge them not to lose faith. They will have the support of their county councillors."

Cllr Hohler also stressed children would not be offered placements far away from their homes after problems with last year's admissions process.

"We had children travelling from north and west Kent to Folkestone, but this will not be happening this year," she said.

"We have decided not to offer places long distances from the child's home.

"Instead, if a child has passed the Kent Test, but has not been offered a place in a grammar school close by, we will have chosen another appropriate school near them.

"We will also let them know of other grammar schools which have places and will encourage them to get on the waiting list for their preferred school."

Cllr Hohler said due to the popularity of schools in Kent, the admissions process was always difficult, with about 1,000 extra non-county children trying to get placements this year.

In 2009, of the 1,554 out-of-county applicants, 521 were given placements. Around 20 fewer are expected to have been offered places in 2010.

News and sport updated daily online www.kentnews.co.uk

260 County Hall jobs go in effort to save £8m

ABOUT 260 jobs are to be axed in the department for children, families and education at County Hall in Maidstone.

The job losses form part of a restructuring programme to try to save £8 million, while at the same time making the department more efficient.

Cllr Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for children, families and education, said many the positions were already vacant and would not be filled. She also said frontline services would not be affected.

"This will make services a lot more focused," she said. "We had to take a long look at the structure to make sure jobs are fit for purpose.

"We need to work effectively and with the right resources. I think this is a positive move in difficult times."

Cllr Hohler said there would be a three-month consultation period before any final decisions were made.

Hundreds more jobs are expected to be lost at KCC over the next three years as the authority struggles with a £200m funding shortfall.

Police apology

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

there are so many things going on in the Medway area. The [Gillingham'] Brompton housing estate is probably still referred to as 'Brown Town' – a haven for drugs, class A to be precise. The railway stations, where addicts hang out regularly plying their trade and getting high.

"What about the ladies of the night who parade up and down Chatham's New Road? Many of whom are addicts, whose pimps move up and down the road in flashy vehicles unchecked by the police.

"And the sometimes underage prostitutes outside Rochester station? These are just a few things that blight the area.

"When you know all of this, and yet are so regularly harassed, how can you deal with it? How can you justify it to yourself or others? Kent Police did all they could to try to get this 'situation' to go away.

"Further insult to injury, the black chief constable [Michael Fuller], who doesn't acknowledge what was going on under his nose, in fairness before he got there, but inexcusable on his watch.

"But in the end, in the face of unflinching determination, even they could not hold out forever. I hope they learn."

He added: "In some ways Kent Police tried to push it to the side, but the fact they have had to come out and do this obviously shows that they do accept some type of responsibility for what's gone on.

Difference

"I hope the force as a whole looks forward to actually making a difference in the way that they behaviour towards people from ethnic minority backgrounds."

Mr Haynes said he has not found Canadian police to be so biased.

The 31-year-old added: "The police out here don't seem to have the same issues. There are stories, but there are also laws that have to be obeyed. The police can be sued and I think that helps why they don't overdo it. I've never been stopped by a cop out here."

In his letter to Mr Haynes, Kent Police Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas said: "We sincerely regret the physical and emotional injury caused to you during the arrest and subsequent strip search on March 25, 2006, and acknowledge that our actions were unjustified.

"Please accept our sincerest apologies in relation to these events and we trust that you can now put the matter behind you."

A spokesman for Kent Police said: "We have investigated the claims made by Mr Haynes and accepted that in some areas the treatment he received was not appropriate. We are always keen to improve the service we provide and Mr Haynes has taken part in training sessions for our officers to make them better prepared.

"We will continue to work with all communities to help provide advice and training for staff around the issues he has raised."

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Legionnaires' victim failed by doctors, says widow

A WIDOW who was awarded £70,000 damages for the death of her husband from legionnaires' disease said doctors failed to take his condition seriously.

Retired milkman Robert Heath, 77, died after contracting the disease onboard Fred.Olsen's MS Black Watch while on a cruise to Lapland and St Petersburg in July, 2007.

An inquest found the cruise company had exposed Mr Heath to legionnaires' bacteria and the two doctors he saw in his hometown of Swanley failed to prescribe adequate medication, respond to his worsening condition, or arrange for his hospital admission.

His wife Audrey said: "Robert might still be with us had doctors paid more care and attention. My husband was reasonably fit and healthy before we went away and we used to enjoy regular holidays and a social life together.

Outbreak

"To see him deteriorate so quickly after he fell ill was very traumatic."

The couple had returned to Swanley after their cruise was cut short on July 30, 2007, following an outbreak of legionnaires' disease on the ship.

The following day Mr Heath began to feel unwell and on August 1 visited his GP at The Oaks Partnership in Swanley, explaining the outbreak on the cruise.

He was given antibiotics by Dr Ethan Harris-Faulkner and sent home.

Despite his deteriorating condition and a visit to the surgery by his daughter seeking help, he was told to continue taking antibiotics for 24 hours and wait for signs of improvement.

After taking a turn for the worse the following day, Mr Heath's daughter called the surgery and spoke to Dr Elizabeth Lunt, but no further advice was given.

Mr Heath died the next day on August 3.

Solicitor Kimberley Owen, representing Mrs Heath, said no amount of money could make up for what happened. "Mr Heath could be alive today if a different course of action had been taken," she said.

"While the £70,000 damages will not bring Mrs Heath's husband back, it will make it easier for her to cope.

Apology

"It is an appropriate settlement from the three parties in this case who failed to care for her husband sufficiently."

Mrs Heath admitted to being upset that Dr Lunt had not issued an apology along with the other two parties.

"Even after his death, Dr Lunt has not shown any regret," she said.

Dr Lunt issued a statement to Kent on Sunday saying she deeply regretted the events leading up to the death.

"I would like to express my sincere condolences to his family," she said.

"Throughout my years as a GP, I have always endeavoured to provide the best standard of care to my patients and will continue to do so."

Dr Harris-Faulkner also issued a statement, but was unable to comment further on the case due to patient confidentiality.

He said: "I am sorry about the tragic death of Mr Heath and I have already written to pass on my sympathies to his family."

A statement by Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines cited the verdict by the coroner that "had Mr Heath received hospital care, on the balance of probabilities he would have survived".

The company added: "We take this opportunity to point out that Fred.Olsen paid only a minority of the claim, and settlement was contributed to by all three defendants."

A scooter ride along rock's memory Lane towards Dreamland

A UNIQUE piece of rock and roll history is coming to Kent in the run up to the re-opening of one of the county's best-loved attractions, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Dreamland amusement park in Margate is holding a day of events based around a showing of the 1979 scooter movie Quadrophenia.

The Who's film about mod Jimmy Cooper, played by Phil Daniels, will be shown at the Carlton in Westgate. It is sure to revive memories of 1960s Margate, when the seaside town was the scene of notorious battles between mods and rockers.

Parked outside the cinema all day will be the famous Ronnie Lane mobile recording studio.

The stylish Airstream mobile has been used by a host of bands, and in 1974 The Who used it to record the Quadrophenia album. The LMS, or Lane Mobile Studio, was founded in 1972, when Ronnie Lane, bass player and songwriter with The Small Faces and The Faces, imported a 1968 Airstream from the USA.



MOD FOR IT: Phil Daniels and Lesley Ash in a scene from the 1979 film Quadrophenia BELOW: Ronnie Lane's band and Airstream



The catalogue of classic recordings created inside LMS is one of the greatest in rock history. Stars who used the studio include Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, Mott The Hoople, Bob Marley, Marc Bolan, David Bowie, Van Morrison, Stevie Wonder, John Lee Hooker and Jeff Beck.

The studio also featured on the cover of Lane's One For The Road LP.

Jan Leandro, Dreamland's audience development officer said: "This is the first public event in the lead up to the opening of the Dreamland Heritage Amusement Park in 2012. At the heart of the project is the celebration of post-war youth street culture and the recognition of its importance in shaping the history and cultural identity of Dreamland and Margate."

Aftr seven years of campaigning, the Dreamland Trust was awarded £3.7 million in November by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It was part of the Government's Sea Change scheme to invigorate seaside towns. The plan for Dreamland will include rebuilding the fire-damaged Scenic Railway, plus the installation of historic rides rescued from closed theme parks.

An archive and resource centre will reflect the history of the site, from its beginnings in 1867 until closure in 2006.

Author Paolo Hewitt will be keynote speaker, along with Roger K Burton, at the Easter event. Hewitt is an expert on youth culture and a biographer of Paul Weller, The Small Faces and Oasis. Burton was Quadrophenia's costume stylist and curator of the Chamber of Pop Culture in London. They will be discussing the mod movement and its impact on youth culture at the end of the 1pm film showing on Saturday, April 3.

Sick sex fantasist jailed for photos

A MAN has been jailed for 18 months for 23 child pornography offences.

Nicholas Axon, 60, of Longbeech, Charing, near Ashford, was arrested on July 1, 2009, and computer equipment seized from his home.

A total of 4,372 indecent images were found, with 2,695 categorised at the highest level, depicting sadism or bestiality.

He was charged with eight offences of distributing indecent images of children and 15 offences of making indecent images.

He pleaded guilty at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on January 5. Axon will have to sign the sex offenders' list and is subject to a sexual offence prevention order.

Det Con Jo Gordon, of Kent Police's Public Protection Crime Unit, said: "By distributing images and fantasising about them in chat rooms with others, Axon continued to victimise the children involved."

Expert's alarm at suicide law

NEW guidelines on assisted suicide could come up against problems in finding evidence to justify not prosecuting, according to a director of medical law and ethics.

Dr Robin Mackenzie, from the University of Kent, said rules have distinguished clearly between assisting someone to die and taking the life of someone in a so-called mercy killing.

She said: "Decisions not to prosecute those who accompany ailing relatives to Dignitas and those who kill inconvenient relatives should not be able to be perceived by the public as the same thing."

Dignitas, in Switzerland, helps terminally ill people die with qualified medical staff.

But Dr MacKenzie argued that under the six factors outlined in the new guidelines on Thursday there could be problems in finding evidence to justify non-prosecution.

"It is likely to be problematic insofar as the evidence will be provided by the person who claims they assisted suicide," she said.

• *See opinion on page 28.*

To view, search 'teenagers' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



The project Time Of Our Lives, run by Turner Contemporary, allowed Thanet teenagers from the 1950s and today to compare notes

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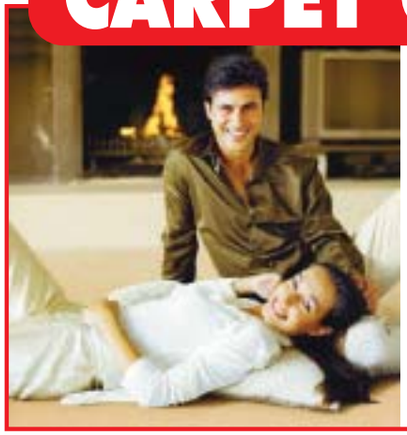
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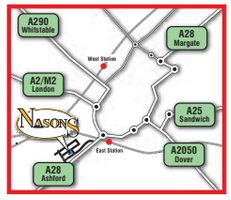
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Bangladesh's 'banker of the poor' meets UK delegation

A NOBEL peace prize winner who changed the lives of millions of poverty-stricken Bangladeshis is in talks with the Prime Minister to do similar work for Britain.

Discussions between Gordon Brown and Muhammad Yunus were arranged by Derek Wyatt, Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, who travelled to Bangladesh last week to meet Mr Yunus.

The visit formed part of a British Parliamentary delegation at the invitation of the Bangladeshi parliament, to look at how the UK can help them strengthen democracy and tackle climate change. But Mr Wyatt said his primary goal was to meet Mr Yunus, who is known as 'the banker of the poor', to see how Britain can use micro-finance projects to help unemployed people out of poverty.

Red tape

The scheme lets low-income or unemployed people borrow money to help them set up businesses, without any red tape.

Mr Wyatt said: "In Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank, which was set up by Muhammed, has helped millions of people, despite the problems with their government and military coups.

"And the number of those who have not paid the money back is just two per cent. Part of the reason is the bank takes care of them once they have the money.

"They make sure farmers have the right tools, or the chickens are producing eggs and veterinary skills are improved."

In some cases, people in Bangladesh are loaned as little as £50 to buy tools or livestock so they can create a sustainable life.

Mr Wyatt said: "In the UK it's not possible to borrow money without a down-payment or equity. There is also the Financial Services Act and all the red tape that comes with it.

"With the help of Muhammed and the Prime Minister, I want to set up an online micro-finance project that can be used worldwide so people can get themselves out of poverty. There is nothing like this in Britain – the only thing similar is the Prince's Trust. I am positive that we can create an entrepreneurial nation."

John Austin, Labour MP for Erith and Thamesmead, was chosen to lead the nine-strong delegation.

"Bangladesh has only just returned to democracy, so we think it is important to provide support to the democratic process where it was absent for so long," he said.

Copenhagen

"We need to help strengthen their parliament and show them it's not just about holding the Government to account.

"We also spoke about the opposition and how it's better to get on, as if they come back into power things could change. We can also learn from them, too, for example, with pre-legislative scrutiny."

Another purpose of the trip was the issue of climate change, as Bangladesh is one of the most at-risk countries in the world.

Mr Austin said: "Any country that is most at risk is aware of the problems and they were anxious that a deal was reached in Copenhagen. I think they were disappointed there was no firm outcome.

"There's not much they can do to put things on hold. They can make differences by changing their methods of fishing and farming and adapt to mitigate the effects – it's all highly complex."

During the visit, the MPs met with senior government ministers, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed and leader of the opposition, Begum Khaleda Zia.

Small operators to the rescue in pothole blitz

By **MARIJKE COX**
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SMALL firms are being urged to help in Kent's pothole blitz after the main contractor failed to step up to the challenge.

County council leader Cllr Paul Carter told KOS Media the authority was turning to small and medium-sized firms over its usual contractor, Ringway.

He said: "If they want to bid they can, but I think we can get other firms with the right equipment that will be more efficient.

"Ringway haven't geared up to do this type of work, even though potholes were expected. They should've looked into delivering this kind of work as it's a problem across the country, not just in Kent. I think putting it out to tender will create competition and wake them up a bit."

An additional £1.5 million has been put aside for the repairs – taken from a budget underspend – on top of the £3m set aside annually to fix potholes. And Cllr Carter said more will be found if needed.

Competition

"There's money to be made for small and medium-sized contractors," he said.

"This is additional funding, so we won't be taking work away from Ringway, simply introducing a bit of competition. We also want to back small and medium-sized businesses in the downturn."

Tracey Elms of Ringway said the firm understood work from additional funding was being tendered separately to ensure it was offered to small, local contractors.

"Ringway has delivered an exceptional level of service to Kent, especially through this difficult prolonged winter," she said.

"We are a large, well-resourced organisation that also has the capability to complete additional emergency works, if asked."

More than 10,000 potholes have been repaired since the first bout of freezing weather in December, but thousands more have opened up in Kent's road.

Motorists are inundating County Hall with claims for compensation for repairs, although KCC is unable to confirm figures.

With the recent severe weather causing numerous 'freeze thaws' – when water and snow seeps inside cracks, then freezes and expands, cracking the road surface as it does so – council officials fear more large payouts.



Picture: ADY KERRY

INFRA DIG: Severe weather has ruined roads

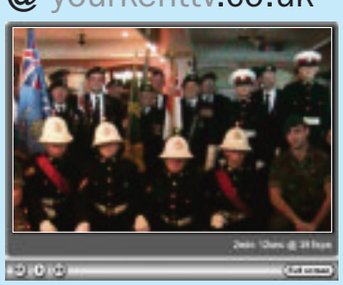
Medway Council has already received 1,500 claims and has contracted Volker Highways and two sub-contractors to patch up the holes.

Cllr Carter said: "We want to get on with the job. When we have the new contractors on board, the pothole blitz can begin in earnest."

The new workforce will begin work in April.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

To view, search 'Marines'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk



An appeal has been launched to fund injured Royal Marines to train for the Paralympics

Thousands of free tickets for Big Day Out

MORE than 18,000 free tickets to the county's leading attractions have gone on offer.

The passes give residents the chance to take a complimentary trip to one of 120 attractions and museums across Kent next month.

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Chatham Historic Dockyard and Hever Castle are among the visitor attractions taking part in the one-day scheme.

A spokesman for the visitor voucher scheme said: "The Kent Big Day Out enables people to find out more about the many attractions on their doorstep so they can recommend great places for a day out to friends, family and visitors alike."

The Kent Big Day Out takes place on Saturday, March 27.

Passes are available from visitor information centres across the county and from www.kentbigday-out.co.uk.

Winter warmer

MEERKATS at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, are being kept warm with sun lamps during the cold and wet winter.

The animals usually live in the Kalahari Desert, and so the lamps were installed by keepers to help the meerkats through the extreme winter weather.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Kaya's variety of influences makes for whole new sound

BY EMBRACING a new era in the world of music, local band Kaya looks set to make a big noise on the international scene.

The Kent-based group will release their debut single, Rat Race, this summer and their music has received airplay as far afield as New Zealand. With the help of emerging record label Inigo, the band is steadily increasing its profile in the UK and beyond.

Kaya's sound has been described as a broad fusion between hip hop, soul, ska, dub and reggae, but guitarist Matt Howard, from Tunbridge Wells, would rather let the music do the talking.

"Our influences are really down to each member. We're all into similar things, but there is also a lot of diverse stuff," he said.

"Our drummer Tom's forte is hardcore metal and we use his skill and turn it into a drum and bass feel. As soon as you draw comparisons to another band, that's out there, so we don't really give comparisons.

"It's an urban style of music, but we bring together lots of different genres."

Howard, 31, has always been keen to pursue a career as a musician and as well as performing, he also helps out with the record label. His practical approach to the industry has proved of benefit to both his own projects and his work with Kaya, who formed about three years ago.

"My dad was a guitarist who worked with producer Joe Meek, so from a young age I was exposed to music," he said.

"I went to Manchester in my late teens to study sound engineering, because if I was going to hire a studio, it meant I could keep the costs down.

"When I graduated, I came back down here and worked at a few major record labels. That was more about business and learning how the industry worked. It was the same philosophy – I didn't know how the studio worked, so I learned about it and I didn't know how the industry worked, so I learned about that too."



BIG NOISE: Bassist Tom Y, vocalist Natty, drummer Tom H, vocalist Aina and guitarist Matt Howard

Established

Howard had worked with vocalists Natty and Aina on a previous project, Sweetoof, which earned the title of BBC Radio 1 Unsigned Band of the Year in 2003.

By developing Kaya's sound over a period of two years while the record label established itself, they have found a new way to work within the music industry and the future looks bright.

"The advantages of technology mean that putting music together and marketing it yourself has never been so easy," Howard said.

"Big record companies are changing the way they work and it's very easy to make music available. It's not so easy with sales, but we're looking at other revenue streams like merchandising or getting our music on adverts.

"I think UK music is very vibrant at the moment and as a nation, we're churning out some incredible music."

Find out more about Kaya online at www.officialkaya.com.

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Complaint to driver ended in man dying beneath bus

A MAN died underneath a bus after he tried to complain to the driver about his damaged pick-up truck, ***writes Ian Read***.

Witnesses this week told Maidstone Crown Court how 30-year-old Martin Barlow was run over outside his home in Catherine Street, Rochester, in April last year.

Bus driver Christopher Eggleton, 45, of Dales Street, Chatham, is in court facing charges of manslaughter and causing death by dangerous driving – charges which he denies.

But the driver has admitted causing death by careless driving.

Mr Barlow died as result of extensive fractures to his skull and spine. Tests revealed the builder was three times over the drink-drive limit, but witnesses said he wasn't drunk.

Lewis Bennett, 16, was walking in Catherine Street when he saw Mr Barlow in the middle of the road banging his hands on the front window of the bus.

Mr Bennett said that half an hour earlier Mr Barlow told him he was waiting for a bus so he could stop it, and had asked the teenager to help him.

Revenge

Mr Bennett said: "He put his hands up to stop the vehicle and it kept coming.

"He was sucked underneath it and dragged along the road. There were lots of people screaming and crying and being sick. It was horrible to see a man get killed like that.

"As I went towards the bus I heard shouting. As he was being dragged along the road his trainers came off. His body came out from the bus opposite Jasper Avenue.

"The bus kept going towards Warren Wood."

Earlier, neighbour Maureen Emperor told the jury she had talked to Mr Barlow who was angry about the damage to his Mitsibushi Trojan pick-up truck.

Ms Emperor said: "He said 'I'm going to stop the next bus and take away the keys'. When I asked if he had taken the matter up with Arriva Buses he said they didn't want to know."

Mrs Emperor heard the single-decker bus coming and saw Mr Barlow running alongside it shouting at the driver.

She said: "He stepped out and started banging on the front of the bus windscreen.

"The bus didn't stop, it just drove on. Seconds later I saw him go under the bus – he just disappeared.

"Then the bus just tore up the road. The driver just put his foot down. My impression was that Martin wanted revenge or a result over the damage to his truck."

Next-door neighbour Abigail Mack said the pick-up truck was Martin's pride and joy and estimated damage at £3,000.

She said: "Martin was really angry about the damage to his truck. He was determined to get it sorted out."

The English teacher and mother-of-one said: "There was a black mark where his trainer was scraped along the road. I saw him banging on the window to say 'stop, stop', but the bus slowed but kept going."

The case continues.



HORROR: Witnesses saw Mr Barlow trapped underneath the bus as it drove down Catherine Street in Chatham (above)

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Book your place at cricketer's golf day

MARTHA Trust, which cares for profoundly disabled people, hosts its third annual Geraint Jones charity golf day next month.

Players with a maximum handicap of 24 for men and 30 for women are invited to Prince's Golf Club in Sandwich, on Friday, March 19.

The 27-hole championship links course has views over Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve.

Teams of four will be joined by former England and current Kent cricket star Geraint Jones MBE and John Shepherd, the former West Indies international and Kent cricketer.

The 18 holes, followed by a two-course dinner and charity auction will cost £70 per player – £40 per member – with proceeds going to the trust.

43-year-old denies murdering woman

A BUILDER has denied murdering a woman at a house in Greatstone.

Paul Fender, 43, of The Parade in Greatstone, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday, February 21, accused of killing Karren Martin in Hardy Road, on November 20 last year.

Ms Martin, 28, was found by paramedics who were called to the single-storey detached home.

She was pronounced dead at the scene.

A post-mortem examination the next day confirmed she had died of a single stab wound.

Fender was remanded in custody and will be tried at Croydon Crown Court on Monday, June 7, due to a backlog of cases at Maidstone.

THE annual service to commemorate those who died in the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster will be held at St Mary's Church in Dover at 11am on Saturday, March 6.

A window in the church honours the 193 people who died when the ferry capsized in March, 1987.

Inquest is told how man died pointing fake Uzi at armed police officers

By **MARIJKE COX**
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THE final hours of a man shot dead by police after brandishing an Uzi-type submachine gun have been revealed at an inquest.

Dayniel Tucker, 39, from Adisham Green in Sittingbourne, was killed by officers responding to a 999 call at 7.51am on December 29, 2007.

Jurors at the inquest at Gravesham Coroners' Court heard how Mr Tucker had made the call himself, claiming a gunman was threatening him in Stansted, near Sevenoaks.

Asked what the firearm looked like, Mr Tucker said it was an Uzi submachine gun, before hanging up.

Lawyer Catherine Milsem, who opened the inquest, said Mr Tucker had spent the previous night drinking in the Black Horse pub in Stansted, where he consumed between eight and 10 vodka and Red Bulls.

A barmaid working that night said she had a feeling Mr Tucker was "deeply sad".

Ms Milsem said after the 999 call on December 29, police arrived on the scene around 8am and despite the incident being of minimum risk, armed response teams were called in and subsequently trained negotiators.

The first officers to arrive found Mr Tucker walking along Tumblefield Road concealing something in his jacket.

Ms Milsem told jurors how officers shouted out to him, but he ignored them.

Mr Tucker's car was parked in a nearby field with a hosepipe attached to the exhaust, and the officers thought he may have been attempting to commit suicide.

It was later discovered Mr Tucker had enquired about having the catalytic converter – which reduces toxic fumes – removed from his white Mitsubishi Colt.

A toxicology report by Dr Fiona Perry found he had 23 per cent of carbon monoxide in his blood, which would have caused nausea, severe headaches and dizziness. The report also showed traces of cannabis.

At 8.28am armed response teams arrived at the scene and decided to try and detain him if he had a weapon.

Single shot

On approaching Mr Tucker, they shouted "armed police, armed police".

But when challenged, he pointed an Uzi-style submachine gun at the two officers who discharged a single shot each.

Ms Milsem said: "Mr Tucker took up a position with his legs apart, holding the gun with both hands. Officer D fired one shot from his firearm and this was closely followed by officer C."

A post-mortem found Mr Tucker received a gunshot wound to his left hip and another – the fatal shot – to his chest.

An ambulance was called, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The gun, found next to Mr Tucker's body, was a plastic air gun used to shoot plastic pellets.

The inquest is expected to last two weeks.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk



Dickens fans urged to help raise £100k in order to save 'jigsaw' chalet from collapse

ONE of the most important connections Medway has with author Charles Dickens is in danger of falling down, unless £100,000 is raised quickly.

The Swiss-style chalet where the writer produced some of his finest works is rapidly falling into disrepair. Now Dickens groups from around the world are being urged to come together to help raise the money to save the striking wooden building.

The chalet previously stood in the grounds of Gad's Hill, Higham, where the writer once lived. It was a present to Dickens from the French actor Charles Fechter and arrived on Christmas Eve, 1864, at Higham railway station packed in 58 boxes.

They contained 94 pieces which fitted together like a giant jigsaw.

Dickens wrote: "It will really be a very pretty thing, and in the summer (supposing it not to be blown away in the spring), the upper room will make a charming study.

"It is much higher than we supposed."

Inside the chalet, he went on to create much of A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, Our Mutual Friend, The Uncommercial Traveller, and the unfinished Mystery of Edwin Drood.

Gad's later became a private school, and the chalet was moved.

It now stands in the grounds of Eastgate House in Rochester after it was rescued from Cobham Park and restored in the early 1960s by the Dickens Fellowship.

John Knott, from the Fellowship, said: "The ravages of time and weather have had a dramatic effect. It is now in need of urgent restoration costing well over £100,000."

The Rochester and Chatham Branch of the Dickens Fellowship, with Medway Council, has now started the mammoth task of fund raising.

Mr Knott said: "It would a tragedy to lose it. There are so many good reasons to save it and none to let it fall down on its own."

If you want to help, send cheques payable to the Rochester and Chatham Dickens Fellowship (Chalet Fund) to 27 Amethyst Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 9TX.



FAMOUS: Charles Dickens' former chalet

Lawyers tie up a legal victory for County Hall and Kent taxpayers

LAWYERS at County Hall have teamed up with a private law firm to create one of the largest specialist public sector legal teams in the country.

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

The unique team, called Law:Public, will offer a range of services for pubic sector bodies and will handle local authority work at discounted rates.

More than 100 lawyers from the Kent Legal Services department at Kent County Council, and Midland and Wales-based law firm Geldards, will make up the team.

Officials at KCC hope the joint venture will save councils money – and subsequently taxpayers – by offering a scale of prices for different jobs rather than flat-rate legal fees, and cheaper fees than private law firms, with maximum charges of £150 an hour.

Geoff Wild, director of law and governance at KCC, said the aim is to get work done effectively and at the right price.

"Collaboration across the public and private sectors is the way of the future," he said.

"It ensures clients receive the best of both worlds – the cultural fit, expertise and value for money of the public sector, combined with the business drive, efficiency and skill set of the private sector.

"What we are offering is the ability to handle a large volume of work at a price which we believe will save councils a substantial chunk of their legal budget."

Criticism

The Kent Legal Services department already handles work for more than 200 public bodies, including police, the NHS and schools.

The self-funding department last year made around £1.5 million 'profit' which was used for libraries, schools and other projects.

But the 12 district councils in Kent use their own legal teams unless a case is particularly specialised, where it is then tendered out to specialist law firms.

With the new set-up, Law:Public is pitching for these tenders by selling themselves on their discounted rates and expert services offered through Geldards and KCC's lawyers.

But the move has come up against criticism from smaller private firms who claim the cheaper pricing could affect part of their work.

Commercial law – or business law – for example, is handled at most private firms at a cost of around £180 per hour.

Other more specialised public-sector work, however, is dealt with through the legal teams at local authorities.

Jonathan Smithers, Law Society council member for Kent who represents more than 2,000 solicitors, said each case depends on the expertise that is required.

"Different firms offer different expertise and I think a lot of public sector work is dealt with in-house. Therefore, I don't think this new team will necessarily take work from local firms," he said.

"This may differ however with commercial property, as most firms deal with that."

Mr Smithers, a partner at Cooper Burnett in Tunbridge Wells, said the move is a marketing pitch by KCC.

"They want to bring in more work and make more profit so they can lower council tax rates," he said.

"Local authorities have to tender out any work so they don't break procurement rules, so KCC is offering their services cheaply to make themselves attractive for business."

David Williams, Geldard chairman, said through offering the new Law:Public service, external spending by local government will be cut.

"We believe Law:Public leads the way in external delivery of legal services to local and central government and the wider public sector," he added.

At the end of 2009, Mr Wild said legal teams at the county council, Medway Council and the 12 district councils should combine to save taxpayers money.

A KCC spokeswoman said Law:Public will not replace legal teams at other local authorities, but offer them specialist support.



Funding threat to homeopathy on NHS a bitter pill for backers

By MARIJKE COX
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HOMEOPATHS and patients lobbied Parliament this week to push the Government into improving access to alternative medicines.

It came as MPs called on the NHS to scrap its funding for homeopathic treatment, which amounts to about £4 million a year. Just last year a hospital run by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust stopped providing homeopathic remedies.

But 27,000 people signed a petition declaring "homeopathy worked for me" and hit out at critics who claimed alternative medicines are merely a placebo.

Organised by charity Homeopathy: Medicine for the 21st Century (H:MC21), the rally saw protestors from Kent lobby MPs alongside practitioners from other parts of the country.

They called for ministers to expand the use of homeopathic treatments and give patients the option of using different forms of healing on the NHS. Grace DaSilva-Hill, a homeopath from Ashford, said her 14-year-old practice was testimony to how many people chose the more natural forms of medicine.

"These treatments have been around for more than 200 years and followed by millions of people," she said.

"We hope the Government will look at evidence that shows this treatment is effective and improve availability."

Her views were echoed by patient Katy Noseda-Vennard, from Bromley, who said: "After trying conventional medicine, homeopathy helped me with a chronic condition and now I use it for any health needs."

In homeopathy the active ingredients are heavily diluted, often until none of the original substance remains.

But homeopaths have argued water has a 'memory' that allows homeopathic preparations to work regardless.

But critics say alternative medicines are nothing but a placebo, sparking an experiment earlier this month which saw volunteers take part in a mass overdoses of homeopathic remedies. Hundreds of people took up to 80 pillules each – tiny sugar pills with a drop of homeopathic remedy – but there was not one casualty.

Edzard Ernst, a professor of complementary medicine, said: "These treatments are biologically implausible and clinical tests have shown they don't do anything at all."

Chairman of the science and technology committee at the House of Commons, Phil Willis MP, said: "It sets an unfortunate precedent for the Department of Health to consider the existence of a community which believes that homeopathy works is evidence enough to continue spending public money on it."



ALTERNATIVE: Homeopathy has many advocates, despite scientific scepticism

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Cock-a-doodle gone

A HOMEOWNER whose cockerel was stolen from his home has denied it was because it made too much noise with its own dawn chorus.

Brian Edwards, from Tovil Green, Maidstone, said the bird vanished from his garden, along with power tools.

He said: "It used to make some noise in the mornings when the sun came up, but it wasn't that loud. I don't think it was neighbours.

"They seemed to like it. I'm sure none of them would have stolen it to keep it quiet. It was a lovely bird and very friendly."

Fuller's poll boost

NEARLY two-thirds of people believe Chief Constable Mike Fuller has been good for Kent.

The figures come from an online poll at kentnews.co.uk, and of the 308 people who voted, 36 per cent thought Mr Fuller had not been good for the county. The head of Kent Police leaves next month to join the Crown Prosecution Service.

You can now vote on the question: 'Should the law be changed to allow assisted suicide?' at kentnews.co.uk.

Ferry nice beaches

SEAFRANCE Dover-Calais Ferries has raised more than £300,000 for the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch project.

The scheme involves ensuring beaches and shoreline shallows are as clean as possible for marine life. The company took on the role of lead sponsor for the project in May, 2008, and has seen customer donations to the charity's work far exceed expectations, say staff.

Managing director Robin Wilkins said: "I'm thrilled at the way customers have responded so generously and also how staff have taken environmental issues on board."

Brave railway staff praised after drunk gunman terror

A MAN who brandished an imitation handgun at railway station staff has been jailed for five years.

Andrzej Augusciak, 27, of no fixed abode, was sentenced after pleading guilty to possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of prohibited ammunition.

Sentencing Augusciak at Canterbury Crown Court, Judge James O'Mahoney also commended the bravery of the train conductor and a member of platform staff at Canterbury West station, who confronted Augusciak on the train.

Det Con Leigh Marshall of British Transport Police said the two members of staff had discovered Augusciak asleep in a carriage when his train had terminated at Canterbury West in the early hours of Thursday, September 24, last year.

He said after the hearing: "The staff managed to awaken Augusiak and he left the train, but he immediately returned to his seat and retrieved a handgun before holding it in his hand and walking towards them.

"He then cocked the weapon by pulling back its moving parts and inserted the magazine."

The staff immediately backed away and Augusciak left the train. Armed Kent Police units were sent to the station. Augusciak was arrested nearby after a search.

Officers found a silver and black pistol and a round of ammunition in his pockets.

The gun and bullet were sent for forensic analysis, with a firearms expert confirming them as a 9mm blank and irritant-firing pistol, and a blank round containing CS powder, a powerful irritant.



JAILED: Andrzej Augusciak



WEAPON: The pistol Augusciak brandished at rail staff

Judge O'Mahoney thanked and commended the Southeastern staff for the way they dealt with the incident.

He said: "Being faced with a drunk late at night with what looked like a gun must have been terrifying and something you will never forget."

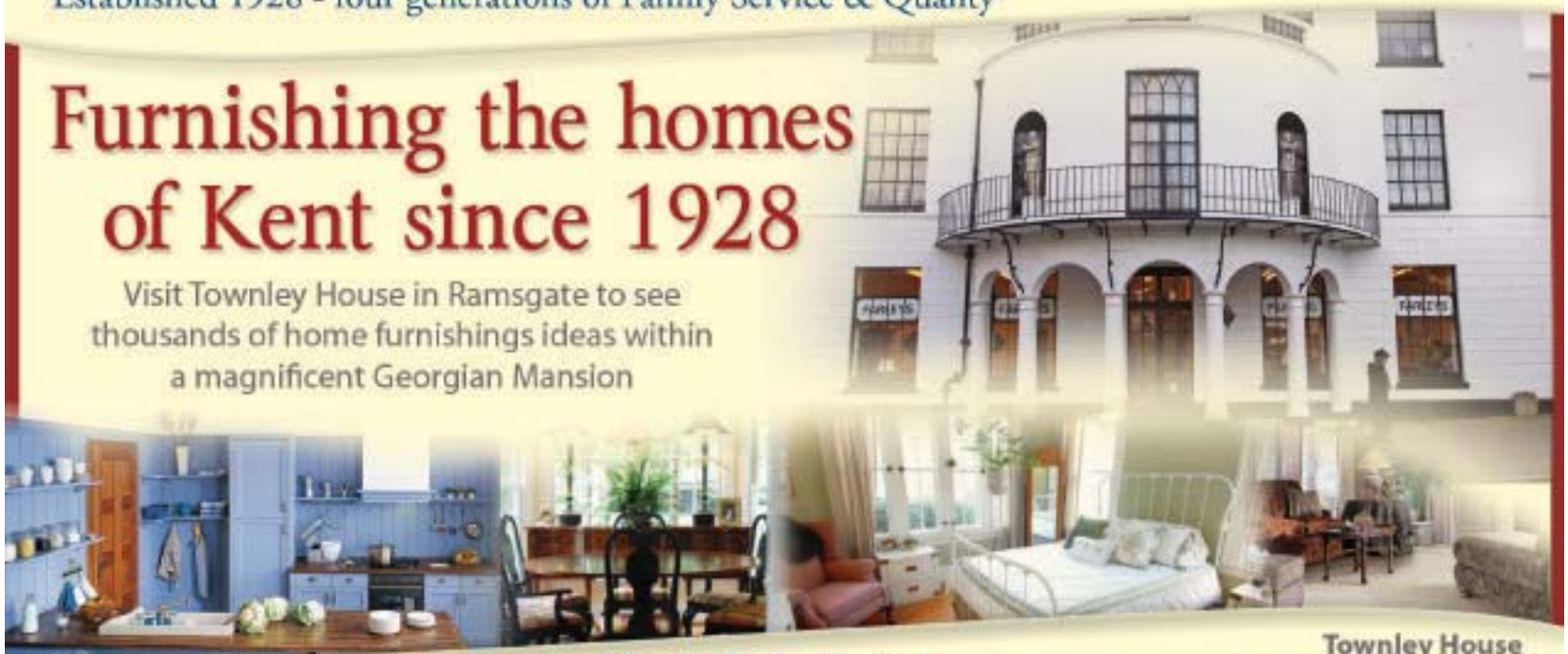
DC Marshall said: "While weapons-related crime is rare on the railway, we have been focusing for some time on reducing the carriage of weapons on the network.

"The two members of staff showed incredible bravery in the face of what must have been a very frightening and intimidating situation and were deservedly commended by the court for their actions. I hope the five-year sentence handed to Augusiak sends out the clearest possible message that the consequences for those found to have live or imitation weapons on the railway are severe."

A Southeastern spokesman said: "We take the safety of all our passengers and staff extremely seriously. We have a good relationship with British Transport Police and work closely with them.

"Our staff reacted extremely bravely, acting quickly and responsibly to ensure that the situation did not get out of hand."

Augusciak was sentenced to five years for possession of prohibited ammunition and three years for possession of a prohibited weapon, the sentences to run concurrently.

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Horrific rock climbing injuries healed using radical new surgical technique

Pictures: SKY NEWS






UK FIRST: Andrew Kent's pioneering stell cell operation saw Cartifill injected into his broken bones by surgeons, who then fused them together using a metal cage until they healed

Stem cells saved my crushed leg

A PIONEERING technique using stem cells was used for the first time ever to save a man's crushed leg – and he has just returned to work, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Andrew Kent, 53, from Gillingham, was hit by a boulder while rock climbing in the Lake District in April, last year. Conventional surgery was unable to save his badly damaged leg, until a radical new idea was offered as a possible solution.

For the first time in Britain, doctors used a patient's own stem cells to heal bones in a technique they believe could revolutionise orthopaedic operations.

Mr Kent was climbing with his son on Langdale Pike when a huge boulder fell on his right leg, resulting in devastating injuries. The shinbone had shattered, with parts poking through the skin near his ankle. In all, there were five horrific breaks.

He was taken to Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle and underwent three operations to pin his bones back together.

But they refused to heal, and a more radical therapy was needed to prevent amputation. He was transferred to the Spire Alexandra Hospital in Chatham, closer to home. Surgeons told Mr Kent he could lose his leg unless they tried the new stem cell technique.

He said: "I was given two choices. I asked what the surgeon thought was best and he said he wanted to try the stem cells. I was the first in the country at that time."

South Korea

Orthopaedic surgeon Anan Shetty removed stem cells from bone marrow in Mr Kent's hip. These were mixed with a new collagen gel called Cartifill to make a paste, which was smeared into the fractures. They finally fixed his leg in a metal cage to gently press the bones together. The cage was finally removed six months after the procedure.

Mr Shetty said: "He's really surprised us. This is an amazing technique. Mr Kent won't be able to run for about a year, but after 18 months his bones will have healed completely. I'm sure he'll be able to go back to rock climbing."

Cartifill was invented by an orthopaedic surgeon from South Korea, Professor Seok Jung Kim, who has helped Mr Shetty pioneer a series of procedures. Prof Kim was present to watch the operation.

Cartifill has also been used in combination with stem cells to repair torn knee cartilage. The gel holds the stem cells against the bone, where they form a new layer of cartilage. Ten patients have been treated so far in Britain, with an 80 per cent success rate.

Cost is always a factor in medicine, but this technique only costs a few hundred pounds.



ON THE MEND: Andrew Kent is back home and has returned to his job in the City

Prof Kim said: "Many people who have problems with knee injuries can now get effective, low-cost treatment."

Mr Kent said: "I'm doing pretty well. I saw Mr Shetty about three weeks ago and will see him again at the end of March.

"I am wearing a large plastic boot which allows me to go outside and have just started going back to work in the City, although I was tired at the end of the first week.

"The boot is a large grey plastic shell you slip your foot into. I still have to be extremely careful with my leg, but I'm getting around a bit. I go up to London on a coach which drops me off at Cannon Street and I get a taxi to the office.

"Life is going to get easier as time goes on. I haven't been taking painkillers for at least six months – I didn't want to rely on them.

"The worst thing about the leg is that it's swollen and tight. I'm not sure when the boot comes off. I'll see Mr Shetty in March and he'll check to see if there has been enough bone growth. I'll need a few X-rays to see how it's getting along. I see a physiotherapist every other week for exercises. If you keep still for an hour, you know it when you get up. It's painful and things lock up. The bones are still fusing together.

"The doctors are happy with the progress."

Mr Kent said it didn't take too long for him to agree to the revolutionary treatment.

He said: "I was given two options. I was told the bones had been apart for so long they had died. One was a lot of metal in my leg; the other was stem cells.

"Mr Shetty asked me what I thought and I asked him how he felt about doing it. He said he was happy to try it and I said I'd go along with whatever he decided. If it didn't work, we still had the metalwork option.

Confusion

"I asked how many people in the UK had it done. He said none. I asked how many in the world, and he said a few thousand in South Korea with Prof Kim.

"When I met the two, there was a little confusion. Mr Shetty thought he was stand by and watch Prof Kim do it, but Prof Kim told him: 'No, Mr Shetty, you are doing it'.

"I assume it was a joint effort. It was a pretty busy theatre that day with plenty of people there to see how it was done. It was a good training session."

Asked how it was paid for, Mr Kent refused to be drawn, but did say the treatmeny was not yet available on the NHS.

He said: "Mr Shetty wants to do 30 or so operations, write a paper and then put it forward for adoption on the NHS.

"It's relatively cheap and speeds up the recovery process – it's hoped this will be cut by half. I'm pleased with the outcome for now."

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Strictly star dies

MUSICAL comedian Jason Wood who was due to appear in Kent has died suddenly in his sleep.

The 38-year-old was the first ever celebrity to be kicked off Strictly Come Dancing and has appeared in other television programmes including The Underdog Show and Spy TV.

Wood was known for his musical impersonations of singers including Cher and Morrissey. He was due to appear at Exchange Studio comedy club in Maidstone next month.

Pfizer lab boost

A HI-TECH chemistry laboratory is to open at the Pfizer plant in Sandwich, showing how the facility is a major world player in the pharmaceutical business.

To staff it, a team of 50 experts in the field of synthetic chemistry is being assembled by the drugs giant. The move follows the announcement that Peakdale Molecular Limited, a leading research services company with its headquarters in the UK, has entered into an agreement with Pfizer.

Driver fined £800

A DRIVER facing a £60 fine ended up with a bill of more than £800 after persistently denying she was at the wheel when the car was caught speeding.

Susan Marion Toms, 59, from Willesborough, even surprised her own defence council when she suddenly pleaded guilty after weeks of maintaining that someone else had been driving her Suzuki Wagon R on May 8 last year.

Her car was snapped by a speed camera at The Esplanade, Sandgate, near Folkestone, travelling at 38mph in a 30mph zone.

Toms was fined £800 plus a £15 victim surcharge for failing to supply driver details. She was also given six penalty points on her licence.

Spring into fashion

FASHIONISTAS flocked to Tunbridge Wells Fashion Week to check out the latest looks for spring/summer 2010.



By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

The event in west Kent's fashion capital gave independent boutiques in the High Street the chance to showcase their wares to a wider audience.

Hoopers department store, already a hub for label-lovers, highlighted its vast collection of luxury brands, including Ralph Lauren and Mulberry.

The event, with lunchtime and evening shows at Hoopers and The Brew House Hotel, took place on Wednesday and Thursday.

Richard Moore, editorial director of co-sponsor The Magazine People, publisher of SO Tunbridge Wells, said: "It has been a fantastic success and hopefully the first of many others to follow.

"The week has raised the profile of Tunbridge Wells as a fashion destination and been a great opportunity to showcase the variety of collections available in the town, from independent boutiques as well as national brands."

The ticketed shows proved so popular with fashion lovers that another 'week' is planned this autumn from September 28 to October 1.

Louise Clark, of The Brew House Hotel, which also supported the event, said the aim was to follow on from London Fashion Week, but offer something more attainable than the capital's high fashion focus.

"The vision was to bring the glitz and glamour of the fashion world here, but in a more realistic and achievable way," she said.

"We have real models and real high street fashion to show people how to put outfits together. We have not gone for size zero models and we've aimed to showcase a range of looks and ages."

The shows at the Brew House offered one fashion graduate, Chloe Bosher, the opportunity to reveal her collection Dot Your Teas and Cross Your Eyes, alongside boutiques including Bod&Ted, Little London, and Kitsch.

La Belle Femme, Country Stile, Greens and the online Gently Worn Vintage based in Langton Green, also showed.

Tim Brewer, general manager of Hoopers, which also sponsored the week and held two in-store shows, said: "Inspiration for the shows was taken from this season's key fashion trends, from military to denim, nudes to florals, city to safari.



Pictures: DAN SMITH

"Ticket holders also enjoyed style consultations, and a selection of hair and beauty treatments. It was truly a day and night of indulgent luxury."

He added: "We showcased leading brands from the spring/summer 2010 collections, including iconic pieces from Armani Collezioni, Paul Smith, Moschino, Nicole Fahri, Max Mara, D & G, Boss, Ralph Lauren, accessories by Mulberry, Paul Smith and Lulu Guiness and shoes by Kurt Geiger."

• ***Inside this week's paper, your Kent's Got Style fashion supplement.***

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Singing research calls tune on key to better health

GROUND-breaking research into the effects of singing on health could lead to significant savings for the NHS, according to experts, ***writes Marijke Cox.***

And a unique study, commissioned by Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS Trust, could also reveal whether crooning delays the onset of dementia and prevents depression in older people.

Professor Stephen Clift, who is leading the project at Canterbury Christ Church University's Sidney De Haan Research Centre, said: "There is now more interest in how simple things can improve well-being. Group activities such as singing stop elderly people feeling isolated and anxious, which improves their mood and can help deal with issues such as depression.

"The more a person remains active, the healthier they are going to be. This could delay the onset of dementia."

The 12-week project, which was made possible through £250,000 of funding from the National Institute for Health Research, is the first of its kind in the UK.



FEELGOOD FACTOR: Group singing can improve wellbeing and health among the elderly

Immune boost

A similar study carried out in the United States found that as well as improving well-being, elderly people using group singing were less likely to have a fall.

And scientists at the University of Frankfurt in Germany published a report suggesting singing boosted the immune system through the release of endorphins, the body's natural pain reliever.

Prof Clift said: "Generally, I think an activity like this can help improve people's well-being and stop them being so isolated. It lifts their spirits.

"It's particularly aimed at people who don't get out as much, so we can see the change in them to find out whether this kind of activity is beneficial.

"It will also help people with respiratory problems manage their illness by being able to control their breathing, which singing helps do."

The project will see over-60s split into two groups, a singing group and a non-singing control group, enabling a comparison to be made. Health measures will be monitored, such as how many times they visit their GPs over the 12 weeks.

Prof Clift said: "This will allow us to test the value of singing in relation to well-being and health. As people live longer, the NHS is keen to ensure a good quality of life for the elderly. The study will also allow us to assess whether this could result in savings for the NHS and local authority services.

"If we can prevent a small number of people being hospitalised, we can save a considerable amount."

The project will be undertaken with partners from Sing For Life, which operates more than 40 Silver Song Clubs in the South East.

Charities working with older people are backing the study. Roma Buscall, from Age Concern in Whitstable, said: "Anything that improves social interaction and health is excellent."

Moves to cut funding by the NHS follows a pre-Budget Government report in December which looked to slash capital spending within the health service by more than £1 billion.

Singing groups are being held in community centres in Birchington, Boughton-under-Blean, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and Whitstable. To get involved in the study, contact Isobel Salisbury on 01303 242031.

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Mothers of inspiration

THE man who launched the Kent Institute of Art and Design in Rochester has returned to his artistic roots with an exhibition of women his mother admired, ***writes Chris Murphy.***

Vaughan Grylls is now 66 and left his job in 2005 after teaming the Kent campus with its sister university in Surrey.

After several successful shows, he is now launching a series of haunting photographic lifesize images of 10 women he remembers his mother speaking about with a passion.

The exhibition, featuring lookalike actors, is called Mother. The subjects include Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain; Mary Prince, the first woman to escape slavery and have her story published; and Marie Stopes, well known for her leading role in advocating birth control.

Grylls, who lives in Sandwich with his publisher wife Polly, said: "Ruth Ellis was someone my mother was very passionate about and even went to protest to the Home Secretary at the time to stop the execution.

"I remember as a child coming downstairs in the morning and seeing my mother crying at the kitchen table saying they had hanged her.

"Muriel Grylls was a feisty woman who left school when she was 12 and became a pioneer for women's rights throughout the 20th century. The women portrayed here were role models for my mother. Like her, they each had charisma and chutzpah. She was a warwidow's daughter and worked before she was a teenager to bring in some money for what was a very poor family. When she was 14 she was talent-spotted. Beginning as a hoofer in a chorus line, she became the lead dancer with the stage name Muriel Melford in a long-forgotten musical called Bonjour Paris.





LEADING LADIES: Muriel Grylls (pictured left, in her 1930s dancing days) was influenced by key women including, from left: Vera Brittain, Mary Seacole, Ruth Ellis, Simone Weil, Mary Prince, Marie Stopes, Emily Davison, Josephine Butler, Radclyffe Hall, Mary Wollstonecraft

"When she was in that show she met her future husband, my father. He was an Oxford-educated schoolmaster over twice her age.

"He introduced her to a middle-class world of politics, ethics and causes. She knew a lot about many key women and it is these I wanted to study with these photographs."

Three of the models are Grylls' mother's granddaughters. Hattie, 17, is Grylls middle daughter and plays Simone Weil. She is in the sixth form at The King's School Canterbury.

Pinny, 31, plays Josephine Butler, and Emma, 24, Marie Stopes. The exhibition is at Rochester Cathedral between March 5-26. Entrance is free.

Nascar trip captured in artist's oils

A KENT man is forging a new career as a motor racing artist.

David Daisy, 34, from Rainham, has just returned from Daytona, Florida, covering the Nascar Daytona 500, where 43 machines compete just inches apart on a two-mile banked oval at speeds of almost 200mph.

Mr Daisy said: "I love motor racing and it was a dream come true to see this race. I was in the pits and able to get close to the cars and drivers and capture the true essence of the sport."



DAVID DAISY

He sells the finished works for about £500 for a 30in by 40in canvas.

He said: "The drivers love them. Each painting takes weeks to complete, so there's plenty of work involved. I've been to Le Mans twice and have worked with racing legends Nigel Mansell, John Surtees and Emerson Fittipaldi. I've also been working at Brands Hatch, hoping to sell paintings to teams racing there."



RACING CERT: Nascar painting by David

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Whether you're moving from another career, starting your working life from school or college or looking to get back into work after some time out, there are a huge variety of roles to choose from whether it's working with adults with learning disabilities, with children and their families or with older people. You could work in a residential home or day centre or help someone in their own home.

In many cases, you don't need qualifications to start, as training is done on the job and many employees will help you gain NVQs. There are also plenty of opportunities to acquire additional skills training and qualifications.

One of the real benefits cited by many people who work in social care is the variety. For Sarah Robinson, for example, there's no such thing as a typical day at the office. Sarah, 23, works in social care as a team manager and currently manages three services, supporting six people with special needs with 11 staff members.

Sarah decided on a career in social care after helping look after her grandfather when he was terminally ill. She started out doing voluntary work with her local day care service for young adults with disabilities, and while volunteering there, decided social care was right for her.

Sarah started her professional career by working with an agency as a casual support worker for social care services in her area supporting a wide range of different people with different disabilities. It was through the agency Sarah worked at a service where the people she supported invited her to work with them full time. She then transferred to a new company and completed her NVQ2 in 2007 while working there.



Since then she has progressed to a senior support worker and is now a team manager along with undertaking on a Management Development Programme. She has also started her NVQ4, with her next goal to progress to a service manager.

She says: "I did an A-Level in performing arts at college and originally planned to pursue an acting career but after working in social care it felt like the right fit for me. Since then I've worked hard but it's paid off and I've been able to have additional training and take on more responsibility."

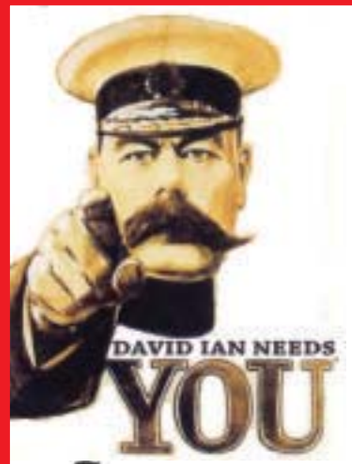
"There is so much variety in my role; one day I'll work on site supporting service users whilst on another day I may be in the office interviewing for new staff or supporting other team members. Opportunities definitely exist for those that are prepared to seize them! If you like helping people, I'd recommend you think about working in social care - it can be one of the most rewarding things you'll do. It's brilliant to see members of my team flourish in the right role."

To encourage people to consider a career in social care, a series of events will be held in local shopping centers across 50 locations in England. To be held during the following weeks, the events will aim to raise awareness and understanding of the range of jobs within the sector, routes to entry and the possibility of on-the-job training. Local employers will also be on hand to talk about immediate vacancies.

To find out more about working in social care, including the full list of events visit www.socialcarecareers.co.uk

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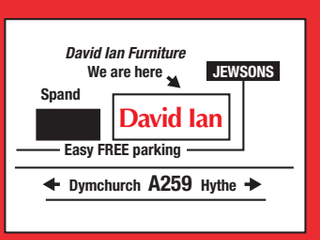
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LA COUPOLE: A secret place hidden in the hills around St.Omer, just 40 minutes from Calais.

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PLOPSALAND: Under an hour from Calais, Plopsaland De Panne is an excellent family themepark located on the Belgian Coast. Dive into Pirates' Bay with the SuperSplash, join Mega Mindy in pursuit of the villains on the Flying Bicycles and enjoy a splashing water spectacle in the Jetski.

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KOS Media Offer
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It's in the blood

JANE CONNOLLY reviews ever-green musical Blood Brothers on its opening night on Tuesday at the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells – the performances are sponsored by KOS Media



ENTHRALLING: Blood Brothers is a popular, moving musical which continues to draw fans

FAMILY ties cannot be broken in Willy Russell's powerful and moving musical, Blood Brothers.

A mother's heartbreaking choice starts a tragic chain of events in this highly acclaimed production from Bill Kenwright.

Blood Brothers is one of the longest-running musicals in history, having run in the West End for 22 years, and now Kent audiences can see the cult show at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

Tuesday's opening night was well-attended and pre-performance chat revealed that some of the audience members had seen the show a number of times before.

Evidently this musical has the power to bring fans back for more, and from the moment the curtain rose, it was not hard to see why Blood Brothers has won theatregoers' hearts.

Set in Russell's native Liverpool, the show explores issues of class and how being raised on the wrong side of the tracks can potentially shape your future.

When twin brothers are separated at birth and given very different starts in life, it appears they will follow wildly different paths. But the best efforts of their mothers cannot prevent the two boys being drawn together, their destinies entwined in a way no-one could have foretold.

Of all the actresses who have played the role over the years, former New Seekers star Lyn Paul is widely considered to be the quintessential Mrs Johnstone.

A good woman who finds herself in a desperate situation, the single mother of seven is faced with an impossible dilemma after falling pregnant with twins. When her wealthy, childless employer offers to take one of the babies off her hands, it looks like the only solution.

But the mother's choice will return to haunt her, as Mickey and Eddie's fates gradually veer onto a collision course.



CONNECTED: Blood brothers Mickey and Eddie are brought up in very different worlds

From the opening notes to the moving finale, Paul's pure voice brings Russell's lyrics to life with warmth and humility.

Always a likeable character despite her law-breaking brood, Mrs Johnstone's grief and regret is never far from the surface and her terrible decision never alienates the audience. This is in part due to Russell's characterisation and honest dialogue, but Paul's performance undoubtedly places the audience firmly in Mrs Johnstone's cheap shoes.

There are plenty of laughs to be had, with the adult actors portraying giddy schoolchildren throughout the first act. But the production accurately captures the morphing of innocent childhood into tarnished adulthood, with the two brothers' lives becoming more disparate as the years pass.

While Mickey faces the harsh realities of working class life, Eddie lives in the fantasy world that only money can buy and these former blood brothers are about to face a test that will stretch their bond to its limit.

As well as being highly entertaining, the show is also thought-provoking and will prompt discussions about the nature of class and what actually constitutes privilege. Most of all, it is a gripping and moving musical with songs that will be running through your head for some time after the curtain falls.

• Blood Brothers' run at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, concludes this weekend. For details and of other shows see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call 01892 530613/532072.




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WIN a taste of the Irish

WHAT better way to celebrate St Patrick's Day than with some authentic Irish food and drink?

There is now a terrific range of speciality Irish produce available throughout the UK, making it even easier to enjoy the delicious delights of the Emerald Isle.

Some award-winning Irish farmhouse cheeses are available at good supermarkets and delis, and really demonstrate just how good Ireland's artisan producers are. Irish grass-fed beef tastes just like nature intended and is now enjoyed at dinner tables throughout the country.

To celebrate St Patrick's Day on March 17, we've teamed up with Bord Bia – The Irish Food Board – to offer five lucky readers the chance to win a selection of fine Irish food and drink.

The hamper will include traditional Irish products; from deliciously creamy Irish chocolates (one will not be enough), to speciality relishes from Ireland's favourite Ballymaloe Country Relish, and healthy oats from Flahavans.

And no Irish hamper would be complete without a box of Ireland's favourite tea, Barry's.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to St Patrick's Day Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is March 10, 2010.

Question: On what date is St Patrick's Day?

No purchase necessary. For terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Contents of the hampers may vary slightly.

To learn more about Irish food in the UK visit www.bordbia.ie for inspiring, traditional Irish recipes.

Japan's dramatic tribute to our sailing adventurer

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN EPIC three-hour theatre production on the life of Gillingham man Will Adams, who was the first Englishman to land in Japan, could be coming to a Kent stage.

The world premier of the huge show took place recently in Japan, and was attended by Medway councillor Sue Haydock, who has become the honorary mayor of Yokosuka, which is twinned with Gillingham.

She said it really was local history being brought to life in Japan.

Adams was born in Gillingham in 1564 and became a proficient sailor. His father died when he was 12 and he spent the following 12 years as an apprentice learning shipbuilding, navigation and astronomy, before joining the Navy and serving under Sir Francis Drake.

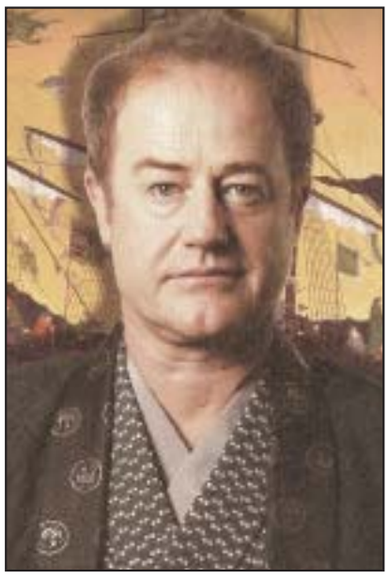
He also spent two years in the Arctic searching for a Northeast Passage along the coast of Siberia to the Far East, a notoriously treacherous stretch of sea.

But his fame began in April, 1600, when after 19 months at sea during which several of his fleet of five ships were lost or forced to turn back, he arrived in Japan.

He was on board the Liefde, a Dutch trading ship with just 20 men left out of the 100 or so who had started out – and most of those were sick or dying.

The ship anchored off the island of Kyushu and on April 19, and the strongest nine men helped land the ship at Usuki, which was once known as Bungo.

Portuguese Jesuit priests told local officials Adams and his crew were pirates and should be executed. But shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa talked with Adams several times, and was impressed with his knowledge and they became friends.



LEAD: Owen Teale plays William Adams

Adams went on to help design and build new ships in Ito for the Japanese based on Western technology. Although now seen as an ally, Adams was not allowed to actually leave Japan until 1613.

He became a diplomat, trade advisor, official translator to the shogun, and was also given the name Miura Anjin – becoming a samurai, which was a huge honour.

The honours and responsibilities continued to grow as Adams formed trade alliances with nations around the world.

He died in Nagasaki in 1620, aged 55 and his grave is still well marked. A monument in Gillingham was also later created.

He had a wife and family in England, though he saw little of them, and they received some of his inheritance. An annual festival has been held in Gillingham since 2000, and other festivities are held in Japan.

The show was performed at the Galaxy Theatre in Tokyo and was a joint venture between the Royal Shakespeare Company, and Horipro of Japan. It played to packed houses for a month until mid-January.

Adams was played by Owen Teale. The well establish Shakspearian actor from South Wales has performed in Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Henry IV and King Lear, among others. On TV he has been seen in Spooks, Ballykissangel, Murphy's Law, and Torchwood.

He said: "William Adams is a very moving and fascinating part, and physically demanding. We did a lot of research in Japan, visiting places associated with him."

Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa was played by Masachika Ichimura, with Tatsuya Fujiwara playing the part of Dominic, a Jesuit priest – both are major actors in Japan.

In the foyer of the theatre was a large display showing Adams' journey from Holland to Japan, alongside a carved wooden bust of the sailor.

Cllr Haydock said: "The production lasted for three hours 20 minutes and was action packed and beautifully costumed.

"It was a great honour to be able to see this show which is important to Medway. We will be working hard to make sure it is put on in this area at some stage in the future."

Teacher tributes

TRIBUTES have been paid to a senior teacher of more than 30 years' standing who died on Tuesday after a long illness.

Peter Catmull, 63, was assistant principal and drama teacher at Brockhill Park performing arts college in Saltwood.

The college's senior vice-principal, Charles Joseph, said: "It is testament to Peter's courage and bravery that he continued to work throughout his illness and was teaching until the last week before the February holiday.

"He remained totally committed and focused on the success of his year 13 students who were presenting their drama A-level practical examination."

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Half a century later, Sikh migrants have tale to tell

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

ABOUT 50 years ago the first Sikh immigrants arrived in Kent after travelling from their homes on the subcontinent to find work – some of them with just a change of clothes in their suitcase.

Arriving from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, many were already skilled craftsmen or farmers looking to earn a British wage which could help support their families at home.

Others were students hoping to further their education. Despite plans to return to their loved ones, wives and children were eventually sent for and decades on have formed strong links in the Kent community.

The largest group of migrants can be found in Gravesham, and they are the second largest number of Sikh residents in the South East. To celebrate the story of their migration and settlement, an exhibition is being created with the aid of a grant of £36,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Using the cash, the North West Kent Racial Equality Council will be able to create a book, website and exhibition tracing the stories of the migrants back to the 1960s.

Stuart McLeod, regional head of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said it was an important project for the borough.

"Gravesham is a priority development area," he said. "This is an excellent example of a project that fills gaps in the social history of a particular community that has settled in and made a contribution for some 50 years."



STRONG LINKS: Kent's Sikh migrants have made a great contribution to county life

The migrants' working lives, cultural and sporting activities and places of worship will be revealed in the exhibition, along with memories of their earlier lives in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Volunteers and members of the Gravesham Historical Society and Kent County Library Service will gather information from members of the older generation to find out what it was like to be a migrant in the 1960s.

Gurvinda Sandher, assistant director of the North West Kent Racial Equality Council – which works to stamp out discrimination – expressed his excitement about the project.

"There is an important story to tell about the early migrants from the Indian subcontinent who arrived in Gravesham," he said.

"They have made such an important contribution to the area over the past four decades economically, socially and culturally, but it is important to learn how their story started when they first arrived."

The importance of the Sikh community was cemented in July, last year, when a spectacular temple, costing £12.5 million, opened its doors for worship.

The Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara is one of the largest of its kind outside of India and has attracted many visitors to Gravesend since work began in 2002.

It can house 1,200 worshippers and forms part of a larger complex containing educational facilities, sports pitches and a library.

Information and research will be used to create an exhibition – with its location revealed later this year – community events and school workshop sessions.

It will then be left in the care of Gravesham Library to assist in future projects.

Special celebrations about Sikh migrants, one for schools and one for the community, will be held at the Gravesham Civic Centre to coincide with Black History Month in October.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Statue homage to radical Paine

A STATUE of 18th century radical Thomas Paine is being created to demonstrate his struggle for public acceptance.

One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, Paine was also an author, inventor and revolutionary who grew up in England and once owned a corset-makers shop in Sandwich. He rose to prominence through publications promoting reason and enlightenment – which also made him many enemies.



THOMAS PAINE

Funded by an anonymous donor at a cost of £30,000, the artwork will be set up outside a library in Lewes, East Sussex – where Paine also lived – and is being created by sculptor Marcus Cornish. Born in Thetford, Norfolk, in 1737, Paine attended grammar school and after working in his father's corset shop, served on a warship.

Upon his return he moved to Sandwich to open a shop in 1759, but the business fell apart shortly after marrying Mary Lambert. They moved to Margate after Mary became pregnant, but tragedy struck when she went into early labour and both mother and child died.

Paine returned to Thetford in 1761 until emigrating to the American colonies in 1774.

There he greatly influenced the American Revolution with his pamphlet Common Sense, which advocated independence from Britain.

He had a similar impact on the French Revolution with The Rights of Man (1791).

Yet his radicalism upset many, to the extent that his funeral in 1809 was only attended by six mourners. The sculpture will be unveiled on July 4 – American Independence Day.

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Scrutiny act would hold companies to account

GAS firms, rail operators and other service providers who cause public disruption will be made to explain themselves under new proposals.

A private members bill will give taxpayers the right to hold organisations to account on issues of concern, including dug-up roads, poor train facilities and threatened bus routes.

Under the proposals, which are backed by the Government, councils would be given new powers to force companies to attend public scrutiny meetings, as opposed to the current voluntary system. Kent County Council deputy leader Cllr Alex King, who is responsible for scrutiny as the cabinet member for localism and partnerships, welcomed the plans. He said: "I think it's most important that local service spending is covered by public scrutiny, and if we can do that then it's certainly a step in the right direction in ensuring value for money.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

"The spending of public money should not just be remotely controlled by Westminster. Local people need to have a voice.

"I should think the number of public service providers that cause disruption are in the minority, but you just don't know at the moment. Given the economic situation it's very important that they meet what's needed in the most cost-effective manner possible.

"This is a backbench private members bill and will need to go through a lot of scrutiny before it is implemented, but it's quite important that elected members at every level are held to account and these plans would improve that."

Under the proposals, organisations called to scrutiny will be required by law to provide information to the scrutiny committee, send representatives to meetings and respond to reports and recommendations. Councils will also have increased powers to scrutinise Job Centre Plus on issues such as worklessness in a certain area, as well as colleges.

Communities secretary John Denham said: "Local people should be able to elect councillors who can get back to them on the performance of all local public services, and not just the ones run by the council itself.

"This bill gives councillors the power to hold all these services to account whether they are provided by other public bodies or private companies delivering public services.

"It will give councils the ability to shine a spotlight on services not delivering for local people, and demand action on behalf of their communities to resolve local problems.

"There should be no hiding place from awkward questions for company bosses about why they are not providing the high-quality local public services people are entitled to."

Parish's power of well-being

PARISH councillors in the Dartford area have been granted new powers to make more decisions for themselves, adds Chris Murphy.

The move is called the 'power of well-being', and Stone Parish Council is asking residents what they want doing over the next five years.

The Department of Communities and Local Government in Whitehall is handing out the powers to grassroots politicians around the UK, so long as members pass eligibility tests.

The power allows the council to undertake activity to promote the social, economic, or environmental well-being of the parish.

All parish and town councils operate using powers granted through the Local Government Act and other acts of Parliament.

These are fairly restrictive and limit parishes to sort out things such as recreation and sports provisions and some transport-related activities.

Now they can undertake activities they consider will promote the well-being of the area.

It will be down to individual councils' creativeness to determine how they utilise the power for local benefit. Others in the UK with the power have used it to establish employment agencies, fund additional police community support officers, and even set up a renewable utilities company.

To qualify, the parish clerk needs special training, along with 80 per cent of councillors.

Parish clerk of Stone, Jenny Thomas, said: "This new power also takes some of the workload off Dartford council as we can make many more decisions ourselves.

"It makes sense because we are on the ground and in a position to know what's best for this area, finding local solutions to local needs. We are building a new community centre and that has tied up the coffers for this year.

"But we want to know what people want the parish council to do over the next five years.

"There is plenty of potential with this new power of well-being. There's a lot of scope for making Stone a better place to live.

"We're in the initial stage of research and taking stock so we can put together our five-year plan for the parish."

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Tearaway who made good helps the kids' home that saved him

A CAMPAIGNER for children's rights has paid tribute to a care home that helped turn him from a tearaway and into an entrepreneur, ***writes Marijke Cox.***

Matthew Huggins, founder of the Care Matters Partnership, was just 10 years old when he was taken in by the Caldecott Foundation at Smeeth, near Ashford, which cares for neglected and abused children.

Having been through a string of homes after suffering at the hands of an abusive stepfather, he was determined to break out of the system.

"Before I moved to Caldecott I smashed every window in the children's home I was in," he said. "They were talking about sending me to a youth offenders' institute, but Caldecott took me on.

"My behaviour was all over the place, I was determined to leave, but the staff refused to give up on me, even though I would hit out at them and run away."

But after six months, Mr Huggins, who is now 29, began to adapt to life at the home.

"There was a strong sense of community spirit, I began to experience things I had never seen before and the staff were very positive," he said. "I attended the on-site school and made friends and heard the horrendous things some of them had been through, which put things in perspective.

Problems

"When I was 11, headteacher John Stanley gave me £50 and an office to set up my own newspaper. I have always been a driven person, but I needed someone to bring this out in me, otherwise I would've turned to crime."

But Mr Huggins admitted his problems were not completely eradicated.

"The home was the seed to my success, but there were things that needed to be changed. It was easy to become institutionalised. I was there four years when really I should have been moved into a family environment. I ended up going to a mainstream school, but when you turn up in the Variety Bus the other children know you're in care and it's difficult to integrate."

But Mr Huggins said a lot has changed since he was there. "Caldecott is expanding its fostering service so children are moved into a family environment sooner," he said.

"The good things have been expanded and other things have been improved."

Mr Huggins recently accepted an invitation to join the foundation's board of trustees. "I want to be able to give something back – I'd go so far as to say they saved my life," he said.



WRITE ON: Former Caldecott troubled teen Matthew Huggins is now an author

When he was 15, however, Mr Huggins rebelled again, breaking the wipers on a police car and leaving Caldecott.

But despite leaving school with no GCSEs, he worked his way from jobs in burger outlets to charities and sales, and on to become a youth worker, travelling to Jamaica and South Africa.

He also became Britain's youngest elected councillor aged 21, when he won a seat for Labour on Barking and Dagenham council.

"Unfortunately, my past came out in the newspapers so I left the Labour group even though I'd done nothing wrong," he said.

Despite his success working with charities, Mr Huggins suffered a breakdown at 26 and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

"I started drinking and taking cannabis. I was still very angry at what had happened to me in the past," he said.

But making the decision to turn things around he cleaned himself up and in 2008 set up the Care Matters Partnership, which provides advice on children's matters to Government, local authorities, private companies and the voluntary sector.

He also finished his book, I'll Love You If, shortly after his breakdown, which tells the story of his life and looks at the problems of Britain's care system. "I'm very lucky with how my life has turned out," he said. "There are others who were in my situation who have taken very different paths. One friend died of an overdose, another is homeless and a third is in prison."

• ***For a copy of I'll Love You If, visit www.loveyouif.com.***

Bluewater adds to attractions

A £60 MILLION events and exhibition venue is to be built at Bluewater shopping centre.

Bosses hope to hold wedding shows, antiques fairs and the like at the development, which they say will become the UK's focal point for retail and leisure-led attractions.

Construction is due to begin in Greenhithe this spring, with the first events taking place late next year. General manager Andrew Parkinson said: "The events venue will be the perfect complement to our shopping centre."

Designed by exhibition expert Denton Corker Marshall, the venue will be centred around a 32,000 sq ft plaza, with 43,000 sq ft of catering and restaurant space.

Visitors will be able to reach the development through the Water Circus.

The announcement of the new development coincides with a successful period for Bluewater, which saw sales increase by 8.1 per cent last October compared with the same period in 2008, five per cent in November, and 7.6 per cent in December.



BIG PLANS: How the new venue will look

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Force still facing problems on race

THOSE who naively claim that racism is no longer a problem only have to look at the treatment of Alioune Haynes to see some people can't quite move on from the colour of skin.

Mr Haynes believes he was singled out by police, arrested, handcuffed and strip-searched simply for being black. His ordeal could almost take you back to a time when ignorance ruled.

But this is the 21st century in a country with a mass of different cultures living side by side, day in day out. It's not an age for ignorant prejudices against someone because of their race.

In an ironic twist, just a month before Mr Haynes' ordeal, he had given diversity talks to Kent Police about how some of them were handling black people in the community.

But it seems his efforts may have been in vain. Mr Haynes' ordeal came at the hands of an authority that is supposed to fight against this sort of behaviour and, even more embarrassingly, is led by a black chief constable.

And be in doubt that something went horribly wrong that night – the police have apologised and Mr Haynes' was handed £8,500 in an out-of-court settlement.

Healthy high notes?

IT LOOKS as though singing could be the way forward to improving old people's health and saving some of those crucial NHS pennies.

Surely this could prove counterproductive though?

A group of pensioners crooning to their heart's content may end up being detrimental to the health of everyone around them.

OPINION: Give us freedom to choose

Jo Cartwright explains why the law on assisted dying needs to change



THERE is an ethical difference between assisted dying, assisted suicide, euthanasia and murder, yet the law makes just two distinctions; assisted suicide and murder.

Even with these distinctions, the law until now has been unclear. On Thursday the Director of Public Prosecution's (DPP) did what he could to clarify the law on assisted suicide when he launched his final guidelines on what circumstances are likely to result in prosecution under the Suicide Act.

We hear from many people who, understandably, do not want to suffer unbearably and against their wishes at the end of life.

For those who are considering an assisted death abroad, the guidelines will help them and their loved ones to make decisions in the knowledge of what the likely consequences of their actions will be, and this clarity is positive.

However, for those people who are terminally ill, mentally competent and are unable or unwilling to travel for an assisted death, we still have a long way to go.

The factors outlined in the guidance, both for and against prosecution, sensibly allay fears of creating a duty to die while not imposing a duty to suffer.

The overwhelming majority of us do not want to see people prosecuted when they have reacted compassionately to a loved one's request for help to die.

Importantly, these guidelines provide the first formal recognition that in circumstances motivated by compassion people should not be prosecuted for assisting a death. Just as crucially they clearly acknowledge that people will be prosecuted if there is any evidence of abuse or coercion.

What the guidelines cannot and do not provide, is a safeguarded means of assisted dying in the UK, therefore we continue to force our terminally ill UK citizens abroad to die, or condone suicides at home, often alone. This status quo is unacceptable and fundamentally, the law needs an overhaul.

In light of Parliament's continued reluctance to address this issue, we call on the Government to launch a full and impartial consultation on the issue. We are confident that evidence from other countries and states in the US which have legalised and regulated assisted dying shows that a safeguarded assisted dying law not only gives greater choice but also provides better protection against abuse. At present, British law relies on an investigation and possible prosecution after someone has died. Whereas it makes more sense to have an investigation when someone requests to die, allowing the person to have open and honest conversation with health professionals, with the potential to meet unmet health and care needs.

Another issue which has seen significant coverage in recent weeks is 'mercy killing'. While we don't condone acting outside of the law, we do think that there should be a review of murder law, as the Law Commission suggested in 2006, with reference to cases of mercy killing.

At the moment those who fall outside of the category of assisted suicide, but act compassionately to a loved one's request to die are tried and sentenced under murder law. This law allows no flexibility for sentencing, and therefore has no room to treat these compassionate acts proportionately.

While it must remain illegal to directly take another person's life even if they request it, in cases where the sole motivation was compassion it is surely not right for the sentence to be life in prison.

We at Dignity in Dying would like to see is the legalisation of assisted dying for mentally competent, terminally ill adults here in the UK, with upfront safeguards. We would also like to see the law of murder reviewed in relation to cases of mercy killing.

We also believe a safeguarded law which is considered before an assisted death is much more helpful to those involved than an investigation after the death has taken place, as is now the case.

Society has undoubtedly moved on this issue, now it's time for Parliament to catch up.

People should not have to suffer at the end of life against their wishes. They should have access to better care and treatment, and the choice of an assisted death within upfront safeguards, which will do more to prevent possible abuse than the current law.

• ***Jo Cartwright is from the organisation Dignity in Dying.***



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Safety first – not profit

Alan Baker (letters, KoS, February 21) raised the issue of safety cameras and their location, and questioned how effective they are in the face of dangerous driving.

I've seen a number of stories in the press over the last few months suggesting that safety cameras are often positioned where they can catch out the most drivers, rather than on the most dangerous roads.

It is, unfortunately, one of many myths that have sprung up around cameras over the years, perpetuated by negative stories in the national media.

The Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership follows strict criteria when it comes to installing safety cameras and we only site them on roads with a history of speed-related crashes in which people have been killed or seriously injured (known as KSIs).

So where you see a yellow fixed camera, it means there have been three or more KSIs over a 1.5km stretch in the three years before the camera was installed; and our safety camera vans operate where at least one person has been killed or seriously injured in a speed-related crash.

We never install cameras in random positions just to catch drivers out.

We have no incentive to do so since none of the money collected from speeding fines goes to the Partnership.

Our sole aim is to reduce casualties.

Mr Baker is correct in saying that cameras do not detect some other offences, however we are now using the vans to enforce mobile phone and seat belt offences.

We don't try to hide our cameras either.

All fixed cameras across Kent and Medway are painted bright yellow.

We also put signs up, use high-visibility vehicles and publish the locations of our fixed camera sites and safety camera van sites on our website.

By law we're not obliged to do any of this, but we choose to in order to give motorists as much warning as possible so that they don't get a ticket.

To find out where cameras are in your area, what really happens to the money raised from speeding tickets, and much more, visit www.kmscp.org. The website should help dispel any misconceptions readers have about safety cameras so it's well worth a look.

Katherine Barrett, communications officer, Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership

Prudent with public money

I write to you following your letter published last week 'Policing out in the cold.'

Kent Police Authority is an independent body that oversees Kent Police and we take the utmost pride in providing the public with a value for money service.

We are extremely prudent with our finances – as recognised by our external auditors. The Authority received a positive inspection in January, 2009, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

We are not by any means thriftless with police council taxpayers' money.

We have the second lowest police council tax in any shire in England and Wales.

We accept that it was a mistake to invest in the Icelandic banks, which have collapsed. At the time we believed this investment would have provided the best possible return for police council taxpayers.

However we have learnt from this and expect to retrieve most of the monies lost.

The Police Authority is made up of 17 members – nine elected councillors and eight members of the public. Each member receives an allowance for his or her time.

The allowance was reviewed following the publication of a national independent review into police authority members' allowances.

An independent local panel – as for all other local authorities – sets the allowance. The increase was a modest amount that reflects the demands and commitments placed on our members in ensuring Kent Police are held to account.

This year both the Authority's treasurer and myself will not be taking our pay increase. We are open and transparent with public money and have nothing to hide.

All information on our member allowances, expenses, and police budgets can be found on our new website www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk

Mark Gilmartin, chief executive, Kent Police Authority

An irrefutable truth?

Ian Taylor (Opinion, February 21) claims that science journal editors are 'leaned-on' to stop papers that support sceptics, but gives no independent and verifiable evidence for it.

He just points to a few hundred of such gathered on a known sceptics' website rather than any other.

It's more likely they were rejected due to flawed data and methodology.

He also claims there's a 'cosy-club' regarding the peer-review process, but again gives no evidence for it, just playing for effect.

As for some more actual facts:

- Sea level rises around UK and European coasts, as well as worldwide, are around 2-3mm per year, but the rate at which the UK south coast is 'sinking' is only around 1mm per year (UK and Australian studies 2009).
- The rate of land-based ice melt on Greenland, on the underside, is now faster than at the top, leading to concerns that it could effect the nearby seabeds' ability to prevent ice-sheet slide off, etc, (Nature Geoscience magazine 2010).
- The rates of ocean acidification, due to increasing air CO2 levels – up three times the rate since 2000 – and thermal vents, have risen to their highest for 55 million years, helping the declining ability of oceans to absorb it (University of Bristol, 2010).

All these add to the overwhelming amount of worldwide data that show that man-made global warming is happening.

Further, I quote The Observer's science editor for 28 years Robin McKie, himself a sceptic until the evidence became clear: "We have a choice. We can take the option(s) suggested by climate science and act now. If that turns out to be wrong, we will merely have cleared up the planet a little earlier than necessary.

"However, if (sceptics) are wrong, then millions of people will lose their homes and possibily their lives. When you think about it, it's not a very difficult choice."

Maybe though its all just a conspiracy between those well-known string-pullers, the polar bears, pandas, penguins, et al, and their political and professorial dupes to get Mr Taylor to cut his car usage, but I prefer the realities of established climate facts.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Letters continued on page 30

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.



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BIRTHS

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David and Heather of Dover are delighted to announce the birth of their son Kieran Anthony Robert Couchman, born on 11th February 2010 at William Harvey Hospital. Our most beautiful and precious son.

JEYES-UJOODHA
Christine and Rohan celebrate the birth of their son Joshua Anthony Jeyes-Ujoodha on 13th February 2010.

KING
Lexy Amy King, born on 8th February 2010, weighing 5lbs 5ozs. Daughter to James and Kelly in Ramsgate.

LISTER
Daniel and Naomi celebrate the birth of their son Dylan Daniel Lister on 9th February 2010, weighing 8lbs 10oz.

NOAKES
Claire and Richard Noakes celebrate the birth of their son Charlie Thomas Noakes on 12th January 2010.

ORSZULAK
Artur and Kamila Orszulak celebrate the birth of their daughter Maja Orszulak on 12th February 2010.

PLANT
Georgina and David are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Maisie Fenn Whitlock Plant, born on the 18th February 2010 at Pembury Hospital. Happy to have you arrive, love Mum and Dad.

POWELL
Kirsty Powell of Herne Bay is pleased to announce the birth of Kairon Wayne Lee Powell on 18th February 2010, weighing 7lb 12oz.

RAMSDEN
Samantha is delighted to announce the birth of her beautiful daughter, Tudor-Rose Amalie Ann Olivia Ramsden, on 10th February 2010 at 05.37am weighing 8lb 12oz. A first grand-daughter for the very proud Margaret and Dean.

DEATHS

CARMAN
Gwen Carman died peacefully on February 11th, 2010. Funeral service at Grace Church, Grove Road, Mangravet, Maidstone at 1.30pm on 2nd March.

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Letters continued from page 29

Really Duff argument

Ray Duff should be a politician, he must have graduated at the Gordon Brown college of debating.

His grand obsession stops him from seeing the 'elephant in the room'.

He continually sidesteps the real issues I raised, that will lead to our demise long before his real or imagined man-made climate change would have its estimated effect.

He talks about 'facts'. These so-called 'facts' vary according to which 'experts' you talk to, who is paying them, their political allegiance and their own self interests.

Many of these 'facts' have only recently been shown to be speculation and wishful thinking.

Whereas, it's an incontrovertible fact the world is overpopulated, its finite and even seemingly infinite resources are being depleted at an unsustainable rate, the world is seriously polluted with chemicals, metals, minerals and gases other than CO2 and politicians still look to increasing everybody's material wealth at the expense of their slowly dying planet.

This is the danger of obsessives like Mr Duff, they misdirect people away from the real issues that need to be urgently addressed now.

Rather like a doctor more concerned about a patient's piles, while he's dying of cancer.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Crossing carbon divide

When the Dartford Tunnel was being promoted it was to relieve traffic congestion; when the Dartford Crossing was being imagined it too was to relieve congestion.

And now Kent County Council wants to spend £1 billion on a highly polluting additional crossing.

If steps had been taken to improve public transport in the past, this immense waste of money would never have occurred.

New road building does generate more traffic and longer journeys, as the Government's Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment has shown.

The Zero Carbon Britain report, available online, demonstrates that a combination of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies can deal with the UK's energy demand.

Since this report was produced, supporters of old and polluting technologies have not been able to fault its conclusions.

Contrary to Mr Taylor's belief, local planning authorities have no role in making planning decisions about solar water heating units or solar panels on any roof.

So long as they are below the roof line, there is no planning issue to address. And prices for these units are dropping steadily.

And, once again, the scientific consensus remains that human-induced climate change is a serious threat to the planet.

Thirteen of the scientific academies of major countries have indicated this, including our own Royal Society.

Opinion cannot refute this, only alternative scientific evidence that is hardly likely to be accepted by scientific bodies like the UK Met Office which have made their concerns about climate change abundantly clear.

Steve Dawe, press officer, Kent Green Party

Let us have our say

So David Cameron is going down in the polls?

The sad truth is that people do not trust him to plot the future of our country without them having a say.

Neither the Tories or Labour have the right to sell us out to Europe without the indigenous population having a referendum on it.

If you really want to win this next election then promise the people a referendum on Europe in the very near future.

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain as the people would be far more inclined to trust you.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Lib Dems' winning way

It has become clear that Liberal Democrats are not only influential at Westminster and in running many local councils, but are also the key players in securing cross-party agreements in Brussels that deliver for the people.

A recent analysis by the respected Votewatch organisation revealed the Lib Dems are on the winning side of more than 90 per cent of votes in the European Parliament.

But British Conservative and UKIP Euro-MPs are the least likely to win votes in the Parliament.

Thanks to David Cameron's idiotic move of pulling out of the big centre-right group in the European Parliament, his MEPs are losers while Lib Dems are winners.

Learning no lessons, Cameron has ordered Conservative councillors in the Committee of the Regions, the body that represents local government in the EU, also to leave the mainstream centre-right group.

Like their MEP colleagues, the Tories there too have been left without allies or influence.

The party that aspires to move into No10 is showing a great talent for being on the losing side.

Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP, Liberal Democrat European justice and human rights spokeswoman



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FOOD producers are to benefit from a new £50,000 training scheme offering courses on hygiene, retailing, marketing and butchery.

The programme will run throughout the year as part of a collaboration between the South East Food Group Partnership and LandSkills South East.

LandSkills South East will provide up to 70 per cent of the cost of the food courses, which are designed for small to medium-sized businesses.

A full programme can be found at www.southeastenglandfoodanddrink.co.uk/traiingprogramme.



KENT County Council has taken on 30 young people as community support wardens after they had been unemployed for longer than six months.

Aged between 18 and 24, the recruits have been paired up with mentors who will teach them skills for future job opportunities.

KCC was able to offer each person 30 hours' paid work per week through the Government's Future Jobs Fund. Cabinet member Cllr Mike Hill said: "Community wardens play an important role in our county and we're delighted we can add extra support to the work they do and help these young people get into employment at the same time."

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KOS Award Winning Company BUSINESS AWARDS 2009 NEW BUSINESS WINNER



Intern fund boosts Kent graduates

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE University of Kent has won a share of £13 million funding aimed at providing graduates with work experience and interview training.

As part of the Government's new internship scheme, 100 young people will be paired up with small businesses across the county so they can learn from the professionals before going for a full-time job.

The programme will be managed by the university's Kent Innovation and Enterprise (KIE) division, which exists to ensure the university's resources are easily accessible to businesses.

Director Carole Barron said the benefits for participating firms include having access to new skills and fresh talent, with graduates receiving work experience as well as pre-employment and interview training.

She added: "The funding has been made available to enable the university to place significantly more graduates with suitable organisations and to provide a meaningful experience for both the graduate and the employer.

"By undertaking a short-term internship, graduates increase their chance of being recruited on a permanent basis or of finding subsequent graduate-level work with another employer."

Launched by Prime Minister Gordon Brown earlier this month, the scheme is being managed on a national level by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in partnership with regional development agencies and higher education regional associations. The funding has been shared among 50 universities.

Mr Brown said: "We are committed to supporting young people as they develop in their careers, which is why we have invested over £13m in new internships, and in the training and mentoring of people taking them up."

It is hoped a total of 5,000 people nationally will benefit from the programme and move on to full-time employment.

Small businesses or graduates wishing to take advantage of the internship scheme can contact Kent Innovation and Enterprise on 01227 827376 or by emailing enterprise@kent.ac.uk.

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Field Based Medway Area

We are looking to recruit a highly driven, confident, self motivated team player, who is able to work under pressure to deadline and target. You will be working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. You will be building long lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent. Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and used to liaising with some of Kent's largest companies and organisations. A Full driving licence is essential.

KOS Media is one of the fastest-growing, independent regional media companies in Britain which publishes **Kent on Saturday** the award winning **Kent on Sunday** and ten **Yourlocal** titles, along with seasonal and annual magazines.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target related bonus, plus five weeks annual leave. If you feel you can meet and exceed these qualities and expectations then please send your CV to:

Ynez Coton, Associate Director,
KOS Media Ltd.,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent. TN25 6SR
Or e-mail **ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk**

KOS media
Award Winning Company

KOS Media | Apple Barn | Hythe Road | Smeeth | Ashford | Kent | TN25 6SR
www.kentnews.co.uk | www.jobsforkent.co.uk | www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Veterinary Nurse/ Receptionist

work involves reception, surgery and cleaning.

Mon 7.45-12.30, Tues & Wed 11-6.30. Alternate Fri am/pm and one weekend in 4 (Sat 8.45-12 & Sun 9-12) No on call/phones.

Prefer with vet nursing experience or RVN, local, good PR and computer experience. Start March.

Ralph Chambers & Associates, Parkwood Green, Kent
Phone 01634 239335 between 3-4pm

White Horse
Rupert St, London W1
Live-In Management Couple
to run exciting traditional pub off Shaftesbury Ave.
Full training given
07770 582656

MAKE MONEY HELPING PEOPLE
Class Leaders wanted for *Arriba!* Wellness Clubs
£1,000-£2,500 per month F/T or P/T
Full Training Available
Call Sara on 01795 532201
www.arriba-classleaders.co.uk

We require part time or full time

COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

for Ashford Area and the Marsh.
Applicants must have their own vehicle.
We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends.
We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

Please call 01797 361889 for an application form or E-mail: countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk

A2 CABS LTD
Full & Part Time
TAXI DRIVER'S
Required
Please contact
Elaine
01795 431500

HOME CARE WORKERS

We are currently recruiting for Home Care Workers who are compassionate, understanding, reliable, enthusiastic and committed to providing good quality support to individuals in their own home.
The role involves supporting people to live as independently as possible such as washing, dressing/undressing toileting/incontinence care, meal preparation, housework and some assistance with taking their medication.
We offer full training, flexible hours and good job satisfaction.
We will require proof of right to work in the UK, 2 full references, health questionnaire, CRB disclosure (£36) met by applicant.

Please call Claire Churchman on 01932 223050 or email recruitment@enara.co.uk

ROMNEY MARSH CARERS - HOME CARE WORKERS

We are currently recruiting for Home Care Workers who are compassionate, understanding, reliable, enthusiastic and committed to providing good quality support to individuals in their own home.
The role involves supporting people to live as independently as possible such as washing, dressing/undressing toileting/incontinence care, meal preparation, housework and some assistance with taking their medication.
We offer full training, flexible hours and good job satisfaction.
We will require proof of right to work in the UK, 2 full references, health questionnaire, CRB disclosure (£36) met by applicant.

Please call Claire Churchman on 01932 223050 or email recruitment@enara.co.uk

HAWKINGE PARISH COUNCIL

Assistant to the Parish Clerk
£16,054 - £18,453 20 hours (pro rata)

Hawkinge Parish Council is a busy local council where an exciting opportunity has arisen for a part-time Assistant to the Parish Clerk. The hours are 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday and 9.30am -1pm Tuesday to Friday, based in Hawkinge Community Centre.

The role, working for the Clerk and with Councillors is interesting and diverse, covering a range of Council services and a variety of administrative duties. The postholder will be required to attend some Council Meetings.

The successful applicant will be educated to GCSE level or equivalent, a committed team player, and have experience in a busy office environment. A sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential, as is a 'can-do' positive attitude.

For an application form contact Tina Wiles at Clerk@hawkingepc.org.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday 19 March 2010



PART-TIME DISTRIBUTORS/ PROMOTIONAL STAFF REQUIRED

Join our award winning team and earn extra cash, opportunities are available to join our team in the Tunbridge Wells/ Sevenoaks/Tonbridge areas.

Hours being 4-5 on a Friday and/or Saturday delivering our newspapers to various outlets. Rate of pay is £6.50 per hour plus mileage. Initiative and smart appearance are the qualifications we need for you to become a representative of our award winning company.

If interested, please contact Barbara Coker on 01303 817072 or email: barbara.coker@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS Media | Apple Barn | Hythe Road | Smeeth | Ashford | Kent | TN25 6SR
www.kentnews.co.uk | www.jobsforkent.co.uk | www.yourkenttv.co.uk
KOS media Award Winning Company

HIGH CALIBRE PA/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

red star FIRE & SECURITY

Required for the Director of the London Based Commercial Company

Salary: £19,000 per year (OTE up to £37,000)

Contract: Permanent corporate

Working from Home. Full Apple Mac book and iPhone to be provided.

This is a highly prestigious role working for a very well respected businessman in London. Working as part of an incredibly slick and polished team.

Based in London SW1, we are looking for an experienced and traditional PA/Executive Assistant to support our team. You will be looking after a huge client database, required to arrange meetings and plan presentations, also providing support to other sales consultants. Liaising with high profile clients within the UK and able to develop strong working relationships.

You will have had previous experience where you have supported someone with very high expectations. The role involves upmost discretion as you are dealing with high-net worth clients on a day-to-day basis. You will have excellent attention to detail, a well-spoken telephone manner and have good administration and secretarial experience.

Please send your CV to: admin@redstarfireandsecurity.com
F.A.O Lee Reid

nacro
changing lives reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Operations in Kent offer vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years and adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate, raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancy at our Chatham New Bridge House Centre:

SCHOOLS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR (MATERNITY COVER)

£19,779.00p.a

Our 14-16 year old programmes include Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme (60/40) and Alternative Curriculum programmes for individual schools. Our programme objectives are to develop and encourage vocational and employability skills which enable young people to re-engage and make positive life choices.

We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

Closing date is 8th March 2010.

Bairstow eves
Countrywide

Experienced and Trainee Estate Agents

Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our sales team in Kent.

If you are a high calibre individual with a 'can do' attitude, good communication skills, of smart appearance and have sales experience then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment.

Please email your CV to:
sarah.mcglinchey@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

Bairstow Eves Countrywide is an equal opportunities employer

Benecare Children's Services

RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS HERNE BAY AND WHISTABLE AREAS

SALARY RANGE £11,620 - £19,500 PA PLUS INCREMENTS.

WE REQUIRE RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS - ALL LEVELS UP TO AND INCLUDING DEPUTY MANAGERS - TO WORK IN OUR HOMES.

QUALIFICATIONS NVQ 3 OR EQUIVALENT PREFERRED. HOWEVER TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR APPLICANTS WITH EVIDENT POTENTIAL AND/OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE.

CONTACT OUR OFFICE MANAGER JANN ASLETT ON 01732 740088
EMAIL: headoffice@benecareltd.co.uk

www.benecareltd.co.uk

RMN Full/ Part time/Bank

Applecroft

Applecroft Care Home LTD are currently seeking enthusiastic and motivated staff for their 75 bedded EMI/Nursing Home in River, Dover.
We are looking for Nurses who have experience of working with elderly residents with Dementia. This is an exciting opportunity to use your nursing skills within a supportive and flexible team environment.

Salary negotiable depending on experience with the opportunity for promotion within the company.
The successful applicants must have a valid NMC PIN.

For more information please contact Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on 01304 821 331 or Email kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk

WILMOTHS
THE CITROËN DEALER

Due to the continued expansion of the Wilmoths Citroen Group, we have the rare opportunity for a **Service Receptionist**.

With currently five Citroen garages across the south east, our latest branch at Maidstone, after its first full year of trading, needs to continue its progression by acquiring an enthusiastic and self motivated individual who wishes to be in control of their own future.

An aptitude towards wanting to succeed is what we are seeking as full training will be provided to the right individual through in house one to one, manufacturer courses and independent motor trade associates. We are adamant that the successful candidate will be someone who has a clear understanding of the importance of our clientele to us.

If you feel that you have the will and the drive to succeed where others would not, then please send your CV with a covering letter to:

Personnel Department,
Wilmoths Citroën Maidstone, Sutton Road, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent ME15 8RD
or e-mail: service@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk

Vehicle Sales Administrator

Required for our Welling branch preferably with previous experience or knowledge of Kerridge/ ADP computer system. An enquiring and accurate approach with initiative will be needed for this position. Training will be given. Salary negotiable.
To become part of our winning team, please send your CV (in strictest confidence) to:

Mrs O King
70-88 Park View Road, Welling, Kent. DA16 1SF
Or email: careers@wjking.com

W. J. King

PEUGEOT KIA HYUNDAI SUZUKI

Presland Care Limited

Support Workers

required to work in Maidstone and the surrounding areas
Hours: Full-time, part-time, as and when basis.
Car driver with own transport essential.

Presland Care provides quality support to enable people to remain independent and live in their own homes.

For an application form please contact Jane or Rita on 01634 673 333

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities. Successful applications will be dependent on a clear enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references.

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

Recruitment Day
Qualified Teachers and Nursery Nurses!

- Day-to-day, short term/long term and perm
- Excellent rates of pay
- To work across the whole of Kent

When? Saturday 6th March, 10am-4pm
Where? 12/17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury
To book an appointment call 01227 450995
or email kent@supplydesk.co.uk

2 Raywood Office Complex
Leacon Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent. TN27 0ET
T: 01222 713813 F: 01233 713847
E: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
W: www.kentplayclubs.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1104141
Registered Company No: 4649786

Dance & Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club sessions.

Do you have experience/qualifications of working with groups of children (5-11yrs) encouraging them to get involved in dance and/or sports activities? Are you available between 3-6pm on weekday evenings & during school holidays?
Salary & hours negotiable.
This project is supported by BBC Children in Need.
All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
Closing date for applications **5th March 2010.**

Are you looking for experience working in a child-care setting?

Are you currently unemployed or seeking employment? Kent Play Clubs has funding to provide volunteer work placements and support in improving job-seeking skills.
Places are currently available for a 10 week course including 6 weeks gaining experience at an After School Club. Gaining experience will improve your chance of securing employment.
If you are interested, please contact
Kent Play Clubs for an application pack.
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
This project is supported by the European Social Fund
All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Closing date for applications **5th March 2010.**

Abbey Court School
"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a

PART TIME CLERICAL OFFICER

Medway Scale D2, points 12 – 21
£15,039 - £19,126 (pro rata)

Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 4-19 years with severe learning difficulties and is located on two sites at Strood and Rainham. The new appointment will be expected to work 20 hours per week (5 x 4 hour mornings), term time only to undertake reception/administrative duties at the school.

We are looking for somebody with:

- Good level of education, with GCSE's (or equivalent) in Maths and English
- Experience of using Microsoft Office (particularly Word and Excel)
- Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail
- Knowledge of school office work desirable
- Enthusiasm and a good sense of humour

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 5th March 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester,
Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338236),
stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

WALMER SCIENCE COLLEGE

Salisbury Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7QJ
Telephone : 01304 375212 Fax : 01304 380766
e-mail : admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk
Headteacher : Simon Heaton BSc (Hons). NPQH
MIXED 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL 800 ON ROLL

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

TEACHER OF ENGINEERING (MPS)

The successful applicant will be a well-qualified specialist, able to teach Engineering throughout the ability range, including BTec First Diploma, Level 2 and the Engineering Diploma Line at Levels 1 and 2. A new Engineering Suite has recently been opened within our Technology department. A comprehensive induction programme will be offered.

The successful applicant will:-
- be a creative practitioner with the ability to motivate students of all abilities;
- be enthusiastic and energetic;
- have a commitment to raising standards;
- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007).

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school.

Closing date : 9:30am, Friday, 5th March 2010

We value diversity in our workforce

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008 Email: harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

A Voluntary Controlled School with specialisms in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities
An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including
320 in the co-educational Sixth Form
'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

ARE YOU A WELL QUALIFIED SCIENCE GRADUATE?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHANGE OF CAREER?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TEACHING?

We have a vacancy on the Graduate Teacher Programme (in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University) beginning in September 2010.

We can offer you an opportunity to work with bright, talented youngsters in a school where you will receive full support as you achieve Qualified Teacher Status.

For more information and an informal discussion please contact Mr Eliot Hodges (Acting Deputy Headteacher) at the school.

Closing date for applications - Friday, 5th March 2010.

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Electrical/Electronic Engineering Ref: P0678
Lecturer in Civil Engineering Ref: P0333
Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering Ref: P0219

Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum
Medway

We are looking to recruit outstanding individuals to teach and participate in the development of programmes across the Faculty of Advanced Construction and Engineering which includes Electronic, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering disciplines. The successful candidates will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in one or more of the above Engineering specialism's. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidates will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Foundation Learning Ref: SE567

Hourly rate: £22.64- £27.46
Maidstone/Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of the Life and Work Skills for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The successful candidate will have good communication skills, a patient and mature attitude and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Kitchen Assistant Ref: P0049

25 hours per week, 38 weeks per year
Salary: £14,588- £16,638 pro-rata
Maidstone

We are looking to recruit a Kitchen Assistant to provide kitchen support for our Apprentice Restaurant and to help both students and Lecturers in the Catering department. A background in catering is essential, plus basic food hygiene and Health and Safety certificates.

Closing date: Friday 5 March 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College | Investors in Diversity | Positive About Disabled People | RBLI | Investor in People

CLASSIC EDUCATION

is currently recruiting

TEACHERS

Primary • Secondary • Final Year Students
Supply • Long Term • Permanent
Full Time • Part Time
Work available in local schools

EXCELLENT DAILY RATE

Call now on **01474 359333**

Or email: office@classiceducation.co.uk
www.classiceducation.co.uk

A Kent based company you can rely on

Agency

TERM TIME TEACHERS

TEACHERS AND COVER SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED

MAIDSTONE, ASHFORD,
MEDWAY TOWNS, THANET
& DARTFORD AREAS

Call and speak with friendly, qualified education staff

Tel No: **01892 676076**
website: **www.termtimeteachers.co.uk**
e-mail: **office@termtimeteachers.co.uk**

WALMER SCIENCE COLLEGE

Salisbury Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7QJ
Telephone : 01304 375212 Fax : 01304 380766
e-mail : admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk
Headteacher : Simon Heaton BSc (Hons). NPQH
MIXED 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL 800 ON ROLL

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

TEACHER OF SCIENCE(MPS)

This could either be a full-time or part-time post.
A comprehensive induction programme will be offered.

The post would be suitable for either NQTs or more experienced teachers. A comprehensive induction programme will be offered whatever your status.

The successful applicant will:-
- be a creative teacher with the ability to motivate students of all abilities;
- be enthusiastic and energetic;
- have a commitment to raising standards;
- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007).

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school

Closing date : 9:30am, Friday, 5th March 2010

We value diversity in our workforce

Kent County Council



To advertise in this section ✆ **01303 817040**

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

FULL TIME FINANCE ASSISTANT (Margate)

Previous applicants for the above post need not apply.

Closing date for applications – 16 March 2010

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Donna O'Connor, Finance Supervisor on 01843 234281

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road,
Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a
Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Be the first in line to receive the latest top Kent jobs



Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

Thanet is a beautiful place to work

Thanet is a great place to live and work. Our historic seaside towns of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs are rich in heritage and opportunity. From the multi-million pound Turner Contemporary Gallery, the new fast speed rail link to London, and the popular Westwood Cross shopping centre - this is an exciting time to join Thanet District Council. We are determined to improve the quality of life for local people. We believe that by listening to local people, working in active partnership and by being prepared to do things in an innovative way we can accelerate improvement and best meet the challenges ahead.

Housing Improvement Officer (two vacancies)
Salary £26,940 – £30,738 per annum

The aim of the team is to improve the condition of housing in Thanet, so that people can live in safe and secure housing free from risks that might impair their health or well being.

We have 2 Housing Improvement Officer posts available. The main duties of these posts will be to meet the statutory duties of the Council with regard to Private Sector Housing, by enforcing national and local standards in housing and to implement a range of private sector housing initiatives, which provide solutions to local housing problems through education, persuasion and the provision of incentives.

One of the posts will focus on enforcement activity, whilst the other post will focus upon pro-active projects and policy work. Please ensure that you indicate which type of post you would prefer when applying.

You will be enthusiastic, hardworking, and be a team player. You will have relevant work experience in private sector housing, building surveying or environmental health and knowledge of legislation relating to Private Sector Housing. You must also have relevant qualifications in environmental health, building surveying or equivalent. Ideally you will be certified in the HHSRS but this is not essential as training will be given.
For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Tanya Wenham Housing Improvement Manager on 01843 577006 or Richard Hopkins Senior Housing Improvement Officer on 01843 577402.

The closing date for these positions is: Friday 5 March 2010
Interviews will be held: 16,17 and 18 March 2010

All posts include generous annual leave, flexible working (some posts excluded), a 37-hour week, subsidised bus pass, as well as access to the local government final salary pension scheme.

For an application form and job description for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on (01843) 577175 (24 hours), e-mail jobs.hrpartnership@dover.gov.uk or, download an application form from www.thanet.gov.uk/jobs. Applications to be returned to: East Kent H R Partnership, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield. Dover CT16 3PJ

Thanet District Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to employing people with disabilities. Any disabled applicant who meets the minimum criteria for the posts will be guaranteed an interview.



Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special'place to work.

We are currently looking for...

TEMPORARY TEACHER FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

STARTING 19TH APRIL UNTIL 23RD JULY 2010

(FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

MPS + 2 SEN Points

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN.

Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 5th March 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road,

Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP

(Tel: 01634 338236)

The John Townsend Trust

Royal School for Deaf Children Margate
Westgate College for Deaf People
Community Living Services
Monkshill Farm

Residential Support Workers

£15,323 – 18,683 dependant on experience

You will:
- Be able to commit to flexible rotas including weekends and sleep-ins
- Be able to follow written care plans and maintain accurate records
- Be willing to learn British Sign Language and undertake other training (mandatory to pass in first year)
- Have experience of working co-operatively in a team.

You will demonstrate commitment to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applications from all groups and communities. All positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure check, satisfactory references, proof of qualifications and a fully checkable work history.

For application packs please contact Human Resources Department

Telephone 01843 227561, email: hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk

Or download an application form from our website: www.townsendtrust.org

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Jobs for Kent continues on page 85...


WIN
£500 TO SPEND WITH
Jacques Vert
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FOR DETAILS
KENT'S
GOT
STYLE
Your guide to fashion
and style around
the county
Review 28.02.10
Cross
Purpose
Review
LISTINGS • FOOD AND DRINK • CRITIC'S CHOICE
ALSO INSIDE – PROPERTY REVIEW

FOR A HOT NEW TAKE ON A FRESH LOOK FOR SPRING, WHY NOT TRY ONE OF THESE FAB STYLES, EXTREMELY POPULAR ON THE CATWALK THIS SEASON. HOT MUSTARD, EXOTIC ORANGE AND GORGEOUS FLORALS ARE A MUST. WHY NOT THROW OVER CLASSIC DENIM TO CREATE A CASUAL, FUNKY LOOK.

STEP OUT IN STYLE

COUNTY SQUARE ASHFORD



Floral fabric bag £8 from Peacocks



Glitter T shirt £9-10, sleeveless jacket £10-12, leggings £6-7, corsage £4, necklace £8, pumps £6 from New Look



Frill dress £35, perforated sandals £35, beaded bracelet £14 from Next



Chartreuse frill dress £50 from Betty Jackson Black at Debenhams

Mustard sandals £49.99 from River Island





Mustard girls cardigan £12-16 from Rocha Little Rocha at Debenhams



Floral print T shirt £16 from Vanilla Sands at Bhs

FOR FABULOUS SPRING FASHIONS VISIT:

Bhs
Bonmarché
DEBENHAMS
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jane norman
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new look
next
PEACOCKS
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Opening times

Mon to Sat	9am – 6pm
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Sun	11am – 5pm*



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*Check individual stores to confirm extended opening hours.

Seasonal style at a snip

WEIGHED down by that winter coat or feeling suffocated by all those jumpers?

It's time to lighten the mood and freshen up your style with spring's new trends.

This season, designers acknowledged the credit crunch to re-work some classic trends we've seen before – less spring fling, more long-term loves.

So use your money wisely and invest in key staples or rummage through your wardrobe and tweak the clothes you've got.

And the good news is you won't have to travel far to be right on trend.

From County Square and Clan in Ashford, De Bradelei Wharf in Dover, and Maidstone's Fremlin Walk, The Mall Chequers and Royal Star Arcade, Broadstairs' Westwood Cross, Bluewater, and Canterbury's Whitefriars and Nasons, Kent's superb shopping facilities can cater for your wardrobe's every need. From big high street names, to the one-off boutiques – the county really does have it all.

And here are a few tips to help you pick the perfect outfit.

By **LISA HAYNES**



Picture: ANTONIO CALANNI/PA PHOTOS

• Eye-popping prints
If computers started designing clothes, they'd look like this. Think geometric, psychedelic and graphically challenging, such as this piece from Versace



•White hot
Banish black, this season is a whitewash. If all that colour and zany print feels overwhelming, crisp white is the cleansing tonic. Try this Religion white Choke fringe dress for £70

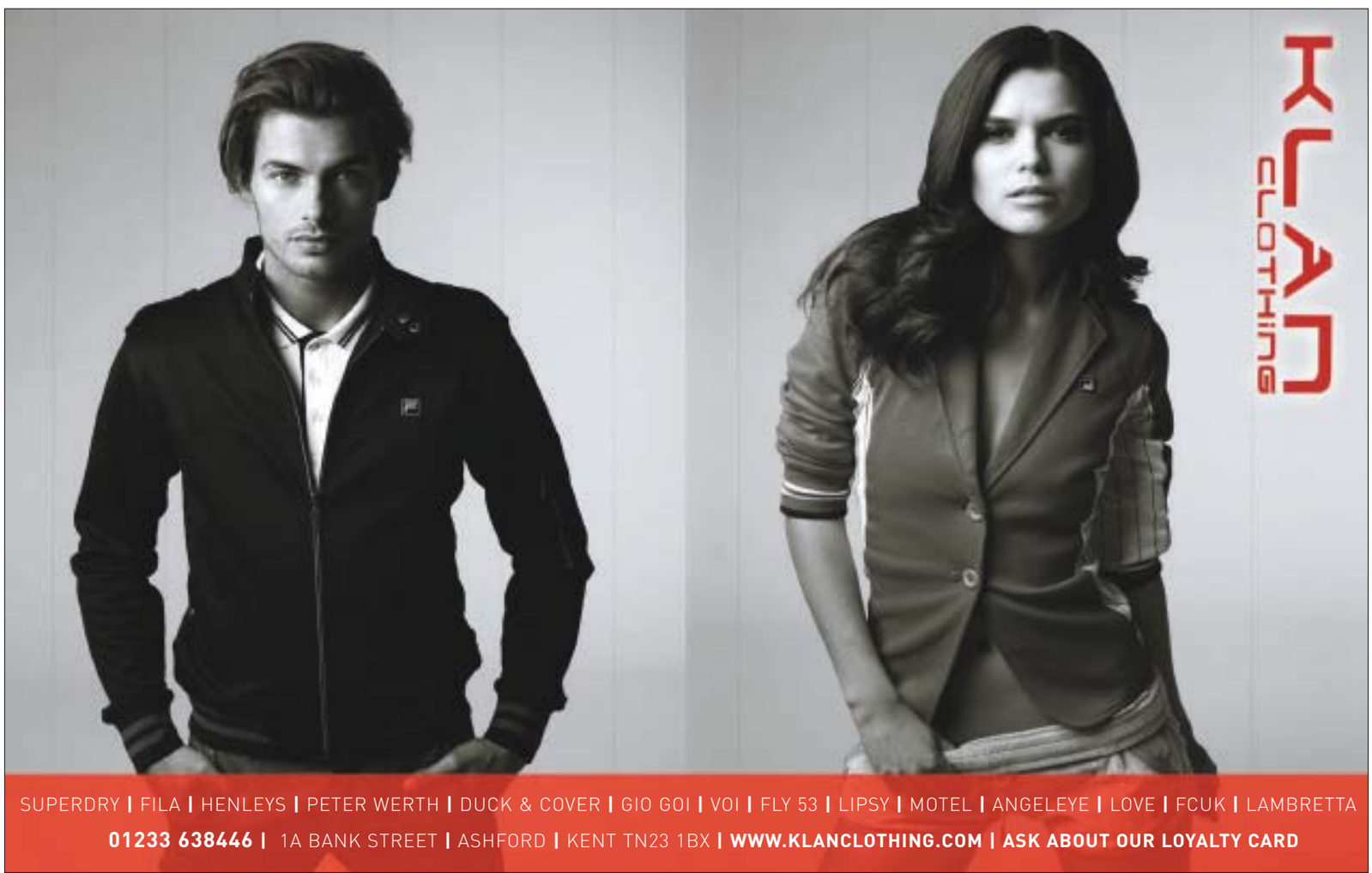


• Sorbet shades
Cool pastels are the freshest shades on the colour palette this season and you can go as sickly-sweet as you fancy. This Dorothy Perkins beaded tunic is just £35



Picture: ALASTAIR GRANT/PA PHOTOS

• Wild thing
No funds for a round-the-world ticket? Get your globe-trotting kicks through the bright and beautiful tribal trend, such as in this creation by Paul Smith at London Fashion Week



At the heart of fashion

MAIDSTONE is fast becoming the county's leading one-stop shopping town centre – drawing thousands of bargain-hunters every day.

The county town's pulling power is thanks to the vibrant High Street, which links the three key shopping areas; Fremlin Walk, The Mall Chequers and the Royal Star Arcade.

The combination of these shopping hotspots – which boast a wide range of exclusive boutiques and top fashion outlets – has seen Maidstone rocket up the country's top retail destinations list.

Industry experts now rank the central Kent town among the 50 best shopping locales nationwide.

Fremlin Walk

This has helped to turn Maidstone into a fashion destination, not just for the surrounding community but also attracting shoppers from further afield.

With more than 45 shops and coffee bars, the centre has a really strong offer of top fashion stores and has bought new names to the town such as Zara, H&M, Oasis and Jane Norman, as well as a fantastic choice of designer brands at the anchor department store, House of Fraser and a selection of the hottest celebrity-loved labels at new boutique Pink Flamingo.

Whether you're shopping for the latest on-trend look or the hottest 'must-have' accessories, Fremlin Walk has something to suit everyone's style and budget.

The Mall Chequers

Situated in the heart of the town, this is your first port of call for all your shopping needs with more than 70 retailers to visit from independent businesses such as JC Rook and Sons and Card Hall, to the larger department stores such as Bhs, Boots and Wilkinson.

The Mall Chequers managers work tirelessly to make your shopping experience as convenient, easy and enjoyable as possible.





The Spend Me card is the perfect gift – a loadable gift card that can be redeemed in most stores within The Mall.

The recently launched Reward Me card is free to sign up for and gives shoppers the opportunity to earn rewards from retailers within The Mall. In-store offers change throughout the year so it always worth checking before you start shopping.

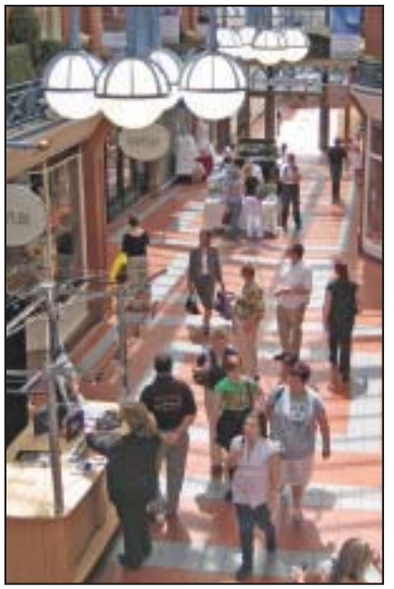
Royal Star Arcade

Situated in the heart of Maidstone, the arcade offers a unique mix of stylish independent and exclusive retail outlets under one roof.

The arcade is a unique mix of time-honoured family emporiums and ultra-modern designer shopping.

Located on the High Street, the arcade is a popular destination for those seeking something a bit different. You will be delighted by the range of independent shopping opportunities offering that special independent service, all under one elegant roof.

From bridal wear to luxury goods and gifts, if you are searching for that something special, you will find it here.



CHOICE: Fremlin Walk, The Mall Chequers and Royal Star Arcade offer a wide selection of shops for you to choose from



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IN MY VIEW



By Damon Smith

Road movie's load of old blarney

LEAP YEAR (PG)

THE luck of the Irish runs out for one hopeless romantic in Anand Tucker's implausible comedy, so it does, to be sure, to be sure.

Promoting a stereotypical image of rural Ireland which would make Father Ted and his flock roll their eyes in disbelief and shout, "Begorrah!", Leap Year is a sappy road movie that clearly signposts every tiny pothole in the path to true love.

To say the lead characters are an unlikely match would be an understatement: She's a fiercely independent interior designer from Boston with money to burn; he's a lackadaisical chef from the nether regions of Ireland, about to lose his pub to the debt collectors.

Never the twain shall meet, except in the screenplay by Deborah Kaplan and Harry Elfont, they must. The eejits.

Anna Brady is deliriously happy with her cardiologist boyfriend Jeremy and as their four-year anniversary approaches, she is convinced he is about to get down on bended knee.

He doesn't, and heads off to Dublin instead for a conference.

Following the lead of her father, Anna spontaneously hatches a plan to propose to Jeremy in Ireland on Leap Day.

However, her carefully plotted travel itinerary falls into disarray when bad weather forces the airplane to make a detour, far from her intended destination of Dublin.

Anna is understandably distraught at the prospect of seeing her unabashedly romantic plans come to naught.

Thankfully, handsome innkeeper Declan promises to help her travel all of the way to Dublin in time for February 29, in exchange for the euros to save his ailing pub.

The trek to the Irish capital is fraught with perils, and Anna and Declan fall victim to outrageous misfortune.

Every disaster brings them closer together and as they approach their destination, Anna has a very important decision to make.

Leap Year is a terrible waste of Oscar nominee Adams' undeniable talents.

Her globe-trotting heroine errs on the annoying, and we don't believe for an instant in the burgeoning attraction to Goode's wastrel with the wandering accent, who derides Anna's plan as "a load of old poo!" Does anyone over the age of five speak like that?

It comes as no surprise that screenwriters Kaplan and Elfont were responsible for the Patrick Dempsey romantic comedy Made Of Honor, which painted Scotland as one big, bonnie, tartan-clad cliche.

They clumsily contrive each slapstick interlude, building to a happy ending set on a windswept cliff top at sunset.

All that's missing is a rainbow to lead the lovebirds to some jolly little leprechauns and a pot o' gold.

DVD

MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT (PG)

HASTILY constructed from backstage and rehearsals footage, Kenny Ortega's documentary is a glowing tribute to the King of Pop as he prepared for one of the most spectacular live shows of his career.

The rehearsals footage, shot predominantly at Staples Center in Los Angeles and The Forum in Inglewood, California, opens with a foot-thumping rendition of Bad and segues into Jam with male dancers flanking the star in perfect time.

The hits come one after another: They Don't Care About Us with a futuristic military theme, Billy Jean, Beat It, Black And White and a delicate version of Human Nature, which reveals the singer had lost none of the melody in his voice.

For Smooth Criminal, we go behind the scenes of a green screen video shoot to insert Jackson into black and white movies clips, including Rita Hayworth's glove striptease in Gilda. A second video shoot for Thriller in 3D cuts back to the venue, where Michael emerges from a giant black widow spider that scuttles onto the stage.

A sound check for The Way You Make Me Feel leads to a difference of opinion with musical director Michael Bearden over subtle changes in key and tempo.

"You gotta let it simmer," says Jackson.

A lot of the footage is rough, and some of the sound is muffled, but Ortega has cut together scenes with impressive attention to detail.

At times, Jackson looks painfully gaunt as he strives to perfect each arrangement, but for the most part, the film captures a musician at the height of his powers.

JENNIFER'S BODY (15)

NEEDY Lesnicky (Amanda Seyfried) is a high school geek with a devoted boyfriend, Chip (Johnny Simmons).

She also has a best friend, Jennifer Check (Megan Fox), who just happens to be the hottest and most desirable girl at school. The two students head for a bar in their hometown of Devil's Kettle to enjoy a gig by rock singer Nikolai Wolf (Adam Brody) and his band. The concert ends in a bloodbath and Jennifer seeks refuge in the van of Nikolai and his band-mates.

Several hours later, the beautiful teenager turns up at Needy's house covered in entrails, transformed into a flesh-hungry menace to male society.

Jennifer's Body is a distinctly off-kilter teen horror that doesn't quite find its rhythm.

Fox graduates to leading lady with confidence, but needs to fine-tune her comic timing to match Seyfried's increasingly wild-eyed performance.

A gratuitous lesbian kiss, filmed in close-up for what seems like an eternity, is a cheap shot to perk up the middle third before the obligatory, all-guns-blazing, final showdown.

Screenwriter Diablo Cody, who deservedly collected the Oscar for Juno, struggles to mesh the horror and comedy elements.

Undoubtedly, there are flashes of brilliance here. However, the tart turns of phrase are always at odds with the blood and gore, as the eponymous angel of death sinks her lacquered nails into any schoolboy foolish enough to follow her into the bushes.

9 (12)

IN A post-apocalyptic future, 9 (voiced by Elijah Wood) wakes to find the scientist who created him is dead, one of millions wiped out by a carefully targeted attack by the Great Machine.

Stumbling into the decimated outside world, 9 meets other cloth figures, all with identifying numbers scrawled on their back. War veteran 1 (Christopher Plummer) has anointed himself the leader of the survivors, including loveable yet frail inventor 2 (Martin Landau), the silent twins 3 and 4, benevolent engineer 5 (John C Reilly), tortured artist 6 (Crispin Glover), spunky fighter 7 (Jennifer Connelly) and knucklehead bodyguard 8 (Fred Tatasciore). No longer alone, 9 joins forces with his cloth kin in an epic battle against the remaining machines.



THAT WAS IT: Michael Jackson fans can console themselves with rehearsal footage

Expanded from an Oscar-nominated 2005 short film, 9 is a computer-animated odyssey which greatly embellishes writer-director Shane Acker's original 11-minute vision into a 76-minute quest to sow the seeds of a new man and womankind.

Disappointingly, Acker's feature is a triumph of dark, steampunk-styled visuals over substantial plot and character development. The script, co-written by Pamela Pettler, is too linear and simplistic, and tension dissipates in the lulls between set-pieces.

The fingerprints of producer Tim Burton are all over 9, and there is a pleasing dearth of sentimentality in Acker's script. There is also a distinct lack of dialogue and back-story, and when the film's grand design comes into focus during the climactic showdown, we're left to ponder if the valiant efforts of 9 and his brethren are worth it.

THE GOODS: LIVE HARD, SELL HARD (15)

DON Ready (Jeremy Piven) is the leader of four hard-nosed trouble-shooters, who move from one city to the next, helping ailing auto dealerships shift the cars on their lots.

Don's colleagues, Babs (Kathryn Hahn), Brent (David Koechner) and Jibby (Ving Rhames), share his 'sell-at-all-costs' mentality, eschewing sentimentality and emotion if it means one more commission.

The feisty quartet answer a distress call from small-town dealer Ben Selleck (James Brolin), whose business is in even more trouble than his daughter Ivy (Jordana Spiro), who is engaged to the son of his sworn rival. Ben's salesmen are mentally unstable and have personal issues, which continually impact on their work.

So, Don and the team swoop into action to save the business, but they too fall victim to the petty jealousies of small-town life.

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard is 85 minutes of torture, anchored by Piven's bombastic lead performance which involves lots of shouting, a spot of karaoke and some frenetic coupling in a motel with his two-dimensional love interest.

WHERE TO WATCH WHAT'S ON

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High Street ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD
28 The Broadway ✆ Box office 020 83031550

BLUEWATER SHOWCASE
Water Circus, South Village ✆ Box office 0871 2201000

BROMLEY EMPIRE
242 High Street ✆ Box office 0870 5050007

CANTERBURY ODEON
St George's Place ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

CHATHAM CENTRAL THEATRE
170 High Street ✆ Box office 01634 338338

DOVER SILVER SCREEN
Market Square ✆ Box office 01304 228000

FAVERSHAM ROYAL
9 Market Place ✆ Box office 01795 591211

FOLKESTONE SILVER SCREEN
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Gulbenkian Theatre, University of Kent ✆ Box office 01227 769075, automated booking line 01227 823282

HAWKHURST KINO
Victoria Hall, Rye Road ✆ Box office 01580 754321

HERNE BAY KAVANAGH
Herne Bay Leisure Centre ✆ Box office 01227 362228

MAIDSTONE ODEON
Lockmeadow ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

RAMSGATE GRANVILLE
The Esplanade ✆ Box office 01843 591750

ROCHESTER CINEWORLD MULTIPLEX
Medway Valley Park ✆ Box office 08701 560568

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All Star wrestlers hit the big time

WRESTLING fans should prepare for a smack-down in Shepway as Big Time American Wrestling rolls into town.

There will be an almighty rumble at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone next month when this extravaganza of muscle, mouth and might hits the canvas. Big names and big talk are on the bill with this hugely entertaining family show that offers plenty of thrills and spills.

Live wrestling is an exhilarating experience and All Star Wrestling promises an evening of stars showing what they can do. Now in its 11th year, Big Time American Wrestling is a fantastic way to see top talent in action.

Last year more than 250,000 people watched All Star events and this year, the exciting Great Britain versus North America theme is continuing to attract wrestling fans to this nationwide spring tour. The latest team of World Federation Superstars will do battle with British heroes in this two-hour, action-packed show.

The show starts at 7.30pm on Friday, March 12, and tickets cost £12/£10 or £35 for families. To book call 0844 8471776 or visit the website at www.leascliffhall.org.uk.



High-speed fun by the sea

DAREDEVIL riders will send the sand flying next weekend as the thrill of quad bike racing returns to Margate.

Returning to Thanet for the fourth year, the Quad Racing Association's Big Sky Beach Cross Weekend is now a highlight of the town's calendar. More than 15,000 people watched the free two-day spectacle last year and there is even more excitement on offer next Saturday.

There will be plenty of thrilling race action and breathtaking dune jumps on Margate's main beach, where national and European entrants will battle for first place. This year, the UK Beach Cross Championship will be launched and riders include 10-times British Quad Champion, Paul Winrow. French rider Jérome Bricheux will make the trip across the Channel to compete in this fantastic event that will entertain all the family.

The fun starts with a parade both days and culminates in a grand finale on Sunday when the QRA Margate Big Sky Beach Cross Champion will be crowned.

Away from the sand, spectators can enjoy traditional seaside entertainment, fairground rides and meet the riders.

The event is organised by the Quad Racing Association with support from Thanet District Council. Find out more at www.visitthanet.co.uk.

Joe's following the yellow brick road

CHILDREN are invited to tread the boards alongside comedian Joe Pasquale in a lavish new production of The Wizard of Oz.

New World Productions is looking for young performers to play the loveable Munchkins in the show, which will be staged at the Central Theatre in Chatham in April. Tracy Beaker star Dani Harmer will also be appearing as Dorothy in the story of a magical land, populated by weird and wonderful characters.

Anyone aged six and above can attend the pre-show workshops and every child who goes along will be guaranteed a place in the production. Workshops will be held at Park Way Primary School in Maidstone and Greenacre School in Chatham during March.

With its attractive costumes, thrilling dance routines and unforgettable songs, The Wizard of Oz will be great entertainment for all the family. When Dorothy and her dog Toto are caught up in a tornado, they find themselves whisked away to the incredible Land of Oz. Determined to find her way home, Dorothy joins forces with a Cowardly Lion, a Tin Man and a Scarecrow in a bid to track down the elusive Wizard of Oz.



The show can be seen at the Central Theatre from April 1-5 and tickets can be booked at www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk or by calling 01634 338338. To book in place at a the workshops see www.newworldworkshops.co.uk.

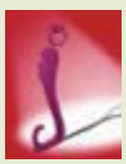
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The Hobbit
Tue 23 – Sun 28 Feb
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Concessions available

Jongleurs
Fri 5 Mar
The world famous comedy club heads to Dartford offering the perfect way to get your weekend off to a hilarious start.
Tickets: £12.00



Stop Messing About
Mon 8 - Sat 13 March
Set during a BBC Radio live recording, packed with outrageously funny sketches transporting you back to a time when comedy meant being funny.
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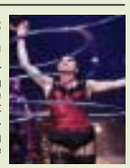


The Dubliners
Sun 14 March
After the public reaction to their sell-out show at home in Ireland, The Dubliners bring their concert to Dartford.
Tickets: £19.50, £21.50

Tony Stockwell
Mon 15 March
It's not creepy, or kooky, mysterious or spooky. It's Tony Stockwell demonstrating his belief that those who have passed on can communicate with us.
Tickets: £18.50, £20.50



Circus of Horrors
Tue 16 March
The Undead Ringmaster Doktor Haze will guide you through an uncontrollable cast of the world's greatest and grotesque Circus acts.
Tickets: £10.00 - £24.50
Concessions available



The Sopranos
Wed 17 March
An evening full of glitz, glamour and oodles of personality, the stunning Sopranos enthrall the audience with timeless Broadway & Opera classics.
Tickets: £19.50
Concessions available





The Hollies
Thu 18 March
A night of pure Hollies with Tony Hicks, Peter Howarth, Ian Parker, Steve Laurie, Ray Stiles and Bobby Elliott.
Tickets: £22.50, £24.50

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TV

MONDAY, MARCH 1

GLAMOUR PUDS: If your idea of cake heaven is an iced finger then you might want to set your sights a little higher.

Chances are, if you haven't tried to eat the TV screen after watching this sweet-toothed documentary then you'll have written down the name Savoir Design to look up later.

This film tells the story of Eric Lanlard, French master patissier and twice winner of the prestigious Continental Patissier of the Year at the British Baking Awards. Many believe he has changed the face of British patisserie. In this documentary, Lanlard takes us on a journey to see how he develops his awe-inspiring creations as well as some of the locations that inspire him to cake greatness. ***(Channel 4, 2.20pm)***

THE SECRET MILLIONAIRE: With the economic crisis showing little sign of abating, you'd think Channel 4 would find it difficult to find anyone willing to part with substantial amounts of cash.

Thankfully, there are plenty of generous folk out there, as Secret Millionaire returns for a brand new run and more wealthy benefactors seek to change the lives of others.

Tonight, multi-millionaire Dawn Gibbins swaps her swanky Cheshire home for a bedsit in Bristol, where some of the wealthiest neighbourhoods in Britain sit side-by-side with some of the poorest.

During her time undercover, she lives in one of the most deprived areas in the south west of England, with high levels of street crime, and where drug misuse is rife. However she still finds inspiration in a number of people who are doing all they can to help their fellow man and woman. ***(Channel 4, 9pm)***

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

HIDDEN HISTORIES: Huw Edwards narrates how the Royal Commission investigates and records Welsh history.

His team of detectives discover a lost church, search for the oldest gate in Europe and find out how Scottish civil engineer, architect and stonemason Thomas Telford built Britain's largest aqueduct.

History fans will no doubt lap it up, but even if you're not, Edwards gives us a compelling lesson like no other with facts you won't find in any school textbook. ***(BBC Four, 7.30pm)***

ONE BORN EVERY MINUTE: There really is one baby born every minute in Britain. Now that is a lot of children, and certainly a lot of hard work bringing those new persons into the world, and this fly-on-the-wall documentary series takes a close-up look at it all by following life in a busy maternity hospital.

Cameras film everything from the reception desk to the neo-natal ward and the birthing pool, giving viewers a glimpse of the emotional moments surrounding childbirth.

In this latest episode, Kelly comes in to have her fifth baby while Joy is still waiting to have her first. Kelly has never had trouble in labour; with her last one delivered just three minutes after her waters broke.

However, Joy has had to undergo five years of IVF and after spending days waiting in the hospital there is still no sign of baby putting in an appearance. ***(Channel 4, 9pm)***

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

PRICELESS ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: The thought of discovering a knick-knack in your attic is worth a small fortune has kept millions of viewers hooked on this show for years.

Many of us have their favourite moment from the last 30-plus years of programmes, such as the exquisite jewellery worth thousands found on a rubbish tip; the cracked tea pot worth enough for its owners to buy their council house; or the blood-spattered Boer War book that saved the life of the owner's grandfather by stopping a near fatal bullet.

Whether you're taking a trip down memory lane or seeing many finds for the first time, settle back and enjoy this priceless gem of a show. ***(BBC Two, 6.30pm)***

RELOCATION, RELOCATION: One could forgive Kirstie and Phil for getting a little nostalgic in tonight's episode, as they revisit the first couple they relocated way back in 2002.

For those who can't remember that far back, Fiona and Tom Butcher sold their two-bedroom flat in London, and hoped the proceeds would stretch to a country home near Loch Lomond and a Glasgow crash pad.

Fiona was tired of the stresses and strains of England's capital, while Tom was hoping to give up the grind to run a pottery studio.

Now the experts are back for a visit to discover that life's been anything but quiet. With a new family and new businesses, there have been tremendous highs. But things took a turn for the worse when Fiona and Tom decided to completely rebuild their home, only for the credit crunch to hit Britain.

Eight years since the Butchers made their move, will Phil be visiting one of his and Kirstie's most successful relocations? Or will he find that, for all their hard work, the project has ended in failure? ***(Channel 4, 8pm)***

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

BUILD A NEW LIFE IN THE COUNTRY: Charlie Luxton heads to Cardigan Bay on the west coast of Wales.

Hugh and June Crawford have given up the comfortable life in leafy Surrey to live a more rewarding sustainable existence. They've spent £300,000 on a 15-acre estate, complete with a run-down farmhouse and derelict barns, which they hope to transform into holiday lets to fill their retirement coffers.

The couple hope to complete their build in six months as their eldest daughter Jessica is getting married and wants to stage the ceremony in one of their barns. But with the barns taking priority, work on the farmhouse falls behind. ***(Five, 8pm)***

THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GAVEL: Simon de Pury. Chances are you don't recognise his name, but he's an unforgettable chap.

He's the Swiss aristocrat and entrepreneur who became known as a private dealer specialising in Impressionist, modern and post-war art. But it was after acquiring majority control of ancient auction house Phillips that he really became a force to be reckoned with in the cultural world.

As we all know, the world is suffering due to the worst recession in living memory, forcing de Pury to diversify to ensure Phillips' ongoing success in the 21st century.

Among his plans have been turning the saleroom into a party venue, and attracting London's 'beautiful people' to swanky auctions of contemporary artwork.

Here, he's seen searching for more cutting-edge pieces to sell as he fights to keep this national institution alive. ***(BBC Four, 9pm)***

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

STICKS AND STONES: Film-maker Hannah Murphy presents a sensitive and poignant examination of disability as she gives adults with disabilities a chance to speak out about their experiences of hate crime.

The film examines the case of Fiona Pilkington, a mother who killed herself and her disabled daughter in October, 2007, after being subjected to a decade of abuse.

The tragedy brought disability hate crime into the public eye and was said to have moved the issue up the agenda, yet Murphy reveals that more often than not the voices of those who are persecuted because of their disability still go unheard. ***(Channel 4, 7.30pm)***

HEAVY METAL BRITANNIA: Heavy metal celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Now BBC Four's impressive musical department is dedicating an evening to metal's biggest and best British exponents.

The movement began with the likes of Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin and Judas Priest. Although they appeared to be inspired by Satan, their apparent dedication to the occult was often tongue-in-cheek.

As punk came along, metal's future seemed to be threatened – until new wave bands, such as Saxon, Iron Maiden and Def Leppard, came to the fore. ***(BBC Four, 9pm)***

Art to be c

Exhibition investigates the influe

KENT ON SUNDAY

REVIEW

BY **JANE CONNOLLY**



FAMOUS artists explore the power and emotion of crucifixion imagery in a captivating new exhibition.

Featuring works by a diverse range of artists from Tracey Emin to Marc Chagall, Cross Purposes presents many fascinating images that reflect a multitude of interpretations.

Exploring both the religious connotations of the cross and its influence in secular society, the exhibition at Mascalls Gallery in Paddock Wood, will be a thought-provoking study of an unmistakeable symbol.

Curator Nathaniel Hepburn believes that visitors will find much to interest them in Cross Purposes, which features works by some of the most important artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

"Many of the artists included are not religious," he said. "They have reached the crucifixion at different points in their lives, to tell very different stories. Maggi Hambling started painting a crucifixion every Good Friday when her mum became very ill in 1986 and it became something of a ritual for her; a way that she can connect with her mother.

"R Henderson Blyth produced his work after spending time in France during World War Two and it was a way he could represent his experiences at that time."

The exhibition is a collection of images by 22 artists including Stanley Spencer, Eric Gill, Betty Swanwick and Emmanuel Levy. But the contributions by Russian artist Marc Chagall are of particular interest and reflect two very different takes on the meaning of the cross.

Created in 1945, a recently discovered work – Apocalypse in Lilac, Capriccio – expresses his reaction to the revelations emerging from Germany towards the end of World War Two.

"As news was coming out of Germany about what was happening to Jewish people, he made a very powerful response to that," Hepburn said. "It was kept by the artist in his studio all his life and I believe it was not supposed to be on public display. But it was bought by the Ben Uri Gallery in London and has been on display for a matter of weeks."

Seeing Chagall's work go on display at Paddock Wood will have particular resonance for the people of Kent, as All Saints' Church in nearby Tudeley is the only church in the world to have all the windows decorated by Chagall.

The east window is a memorial to Sarah d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, a local girl who drowned in 1963 at the age of 21, and the exhibition welcomes Chagall's preparatory drawings to the UK for the very first time.

These drawings reveal the evolution of the artist's ideas, something that should prove illuminating for visitors.

"There's an image which came as a shock to us when we discovered these works, that seems to bear no relation to any windows at the church," Hepburn said.

"We showed it to members of the family and people who have researched the church and it was a totally new image.

"On closer examination, it does have references to what we see in the east window but it was a very early starting point for Chagall.

"It showed the girl rising from a bouquet of flowers and the crucifixion in the background, but he decided this quite sensual image was not appropriate and made the crucifixion more prominent. It will be interesting to see how it compares with the image at the church."

With its shocking connotations of violence and cruelty, the crucifixion was not depicted by the Church until 420AD. But this emotive image is universally understood and seems to hold as much power for secular artists as those with religious convictions.

"It's an image that we all immediately recog-

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Stronger recovery in south's home market

By **CHRIS MUPHY**

THE North/South divide in the UK is still alive and well, says a major survey.

Chesterton Humberts examined the problem in its January House Price Poll of Polls.

It found there is increasing evidence of the split when it comes to the strength of house price recovery.

They discovered house prices in the five most expensive local authorities, all in London, increased by an average of 1.5 per cent over the month.

Three of the five least expensive areas showed house prices falling month-on-month.

Overall, the average residential property price has risen a third of one per cent month-on-month to £174,907, with houses in the top 20 per cent of the market selling for an average of £366,229, up 10.6 per cent year on year.

Yet properties in the bottom fifth sell for an average of £110,625, a drop of 0.3 per cent.

Looked at by region, the North East, North West, and Yorkshire and Humber areas all reveal price drops, or at best level prices.

And those in the South East – including Kent – the South West and London saw average rises of 6.1 per cent.

Robert Bartlett, Chesterton Humberts' CEO, said: "We have been highlighting the fractured nature of the housing market recovery for several months.

"The general outlook remains positive but as the 'poll of polls' clearly shows, the market in the south is far stronger than in the northern regions.

"The top of the market is recovering more quickly than the lower end, which also reflects this regional disjoint as the most expensive properties are all in and around London and properties at the bottom of the market are further north.

"Buoyed by foreign buyers and recovery in the financial sector, property prices in and around London, the South East and South West have proved resilient.

"Sales in our northern offices are far more price sensitive. We may not have seen the full downward market correction here yet.

"Sellers remain scarce in all regions due to the continuing shortage of both financing and stock. Record low base interest rates mean there is little pressure to sell and potential sellers are holding on for a price recovery."



LOCATION: The North/South divide is more obvious than ever when it comes to house prices

'Significant' risk of rent arrears

THERE are a growing number of tenants who are worrying about finding the money to pay their rent, according to a new report.

Now, a "significant number" of tenants are still struggling with rental payments, said the Association of Residential Letting Agents.

Results from the latest ARLA survey show that 55 per cent of members have seen an increase in tenants struggling to be able to meet their rental payments.

Despite being a decrease on the previous quarter, this figure remains worryingly high.

Ian Potter, operations manager of ARLA, said: "Unemployment has been the primary factor behind any rental arrears throughout the recession. If the jobless total rises in 2010 it is inevitable that the number of tenants forced to default on their rent will also increase."

"The housing market looks increasingly buoyant with demand for rental properties having risen strongly since October. The problem of rental arrears will therefore persist and potentially grow in seriousness as tenants get caught in a web of debt."

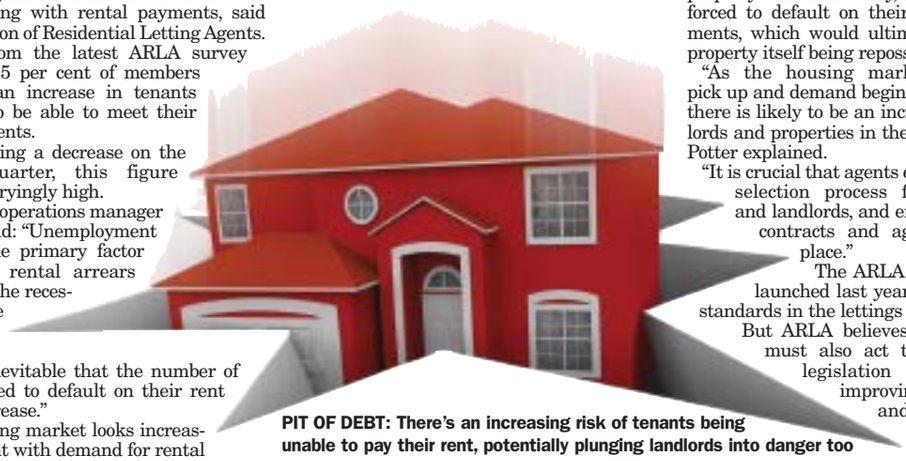
As rental arrears begin to stack up, residents run the risk of being evicted from their property. Simultaneously, landlords could be forced to default on their mortgage repayments, which would ultimately lead to the property itself being repossessed.

"As the housing market continues to pick up and demand begins to exceed supply, there is likely to be an increase of new landlords and properties in the rental sector," Mr Potter explained.

"It is crucial that agents engage in a careful selection process for both tenants and landlords, and ensure the relevant contracts and agreements are in place."

The ARLA licensing scheme, launched last year, aims to drive up standards in the lettings industry.

But ARLA believes the Government must also act to create uniform legislation to nurture the improving housing market and protect both consumers and landlords.



PIT OF DEBT: There's an increasing risk of tenants being unable to pay their rent, potentially plunging landlords into danger too

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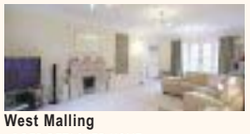
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The latest development in Snodland has a range of prices, including £274,995 for its Penshurst house.

This is a large, four-bedroom link-detached house, arranged over two-and-a-half floors, and with the top floor entirely dedicated to providing a sanctuary for parents.

The large master bedroom suite includes its own dressing area and shower-room. Well proportioned with eaves and dormer windows, parents can truly relax and take time out, the company said.



Ward Homes said the Penshurst is a fantastic home with spacious rooms throughout, as well as offering the added luxury of a retreat for parents on the top floor, completely separate from the other bedrooms and living space.

Space for the parents is not at the expense of the children, as they have their own area on the first floor which comprises a further two double-bedrooms, a single-bedroom and a family bathroom.

On the ground floor, a large open-plan living and dining area extends into a conservatory that opens onto a sizeable garden.

The spacious kitchen is separate to the rest of the living space and benefits from a large bay window, which is ideal for a breakfast table and chairs.





Nick Fenton, managing director for Ward Homes, said: "Everyone needs space.

"The Penshurst has been designed with the modern family in mind and the open-plan living area on the ground floor ensures there is also has plenty of space for the family to spend time together."

Pavilion Place comprises 44 terraced, semi-detached and link-detached two, three and four-bedroom houses with prices starting from £214,995.

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First chance to view

A NEW development is being launched in the county by Taylor Wimpey.

The community is at Birling Grange and will be exclusively launched this weekend.

It is off London Road, West Malling, and buyers can take a look around the new Finsbury show home.

Visitors will also have the chance to see artists' impressions of the architectural designs and floor plans of interior layouts of all the development's selection of one and two-bedroom apartments and two, three and four-bedroom houses. These can be reserved on the day.

Marie-Claire Travis, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey South East, said: "The showhome has been expertly kitted out with the latest decor, furnishings, fittings and accessories, and promises to provide an inspirational glimpse into what a new home at Birling Grange could look like.

"We've already received considerable interest in this exciting development and I urge would-be buyers to come along to the launch if they want to stand the best chance of securing the home of their dreams."

The first homes on sale at Birling Grange include stylish two-bedroom coach houses and apartments priced from £184,995, three-bedroom houses from £244,995, and four-bedroom houses from £354,995.

The company said those in search of the ultimate in generous space and elegant styling can opt for the exceptional four-bedroom Finsbury house type, available from £399,995 with accommodation across three floors for comfortable family living.



Purchasers can choose from the company's range of interior options, including carpets, flooring, tiles, lighting and kitchen worktops, units and appliances – all of which will be fitted before the move.

Their first-time buyers' initiative lets qualifying purchasers secure selected properties with a mortgage of 50 per cent of the purchase price, and assistance with finding a purchaser for an existing property for those with a home to sell. They are only available on some plots and subject to availability, so you need to ask.

Birling Grange is being developed on the former Leybourne Grange manor house and hospital and will comprise a combination of houses and apartments, community and leisure facilities, all surrounded by some 160 acres of public open space, they said.

The sales centre is open between 10.30am-5.30pm, seven days a week.

For more information call 0845 026 3791.

Taylor Wimpey

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Images show typical Taylor Wimpey homes and the local area.

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Gillingham £110,000
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REF: Rainham_62292S



Walderslade £142,500
- 2 BEDROOM TERRACE HOUSE
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
- ALLOCATED PARKING

REF: Walderslade_62139S



Gillingham £120,000
- 2 BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- APPROX 14FT KITCHEN / DINER
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- REAR GARDEN / NO FORWARD CHAIN

REF: Rainham_62303S



Walderslade £134,000
- 3 BEDROOM HOUSE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- CLOAKROOM

REF: Walderslade_61519S



Walderslade Woods TO LET £995pcm
- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- "L" SHAPED LOUNGE
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- REAR GARDEN AND GARAGE

REF: inst-335



Gillingham £129,995
- TERRACE HOUSE
- 2 BEDROOM
- NO CHAIN
- IN NEED OF FINISHING OFF

REF: Rainham_61646S



Chatham £112,000
- BACK TO BACK HOUSE
- 1 DOUBLE BEDROOM
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER

REF: Walderslade_59947S



Rainham Guide Price £150,000 £160,000
- 2 BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- GARAGE EN BLOC TO REAR

REF: Rainham_61622S



Frindsbury £249,995
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI TOWN HOUSE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- LOUNGE
- MASTER BEDROOM EN-SUITE

REF: Walderslade_61412S



Gillingham TO LET £995pcm
- 4 BEDROOM HOME
- FURNISHED
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- IDEAL FOR STUDENTS

REF: inst-331



Gillingham OIEO £164,995
- 3 DOUBLE BED TERRACE HOME
- EXTENDED LOUNGE DINER
- CONSERVATORY
- GARAGE AND DRIVE

REF: Rainham_60133S



WaldersladeGuide Price £410,000 £420,000
- DETACHED CHALET BUNGALOW
- 4 BEDROOM
- FAMILY ROOM
- 3 RECEPTIONS

REF: Walderslade_61436S



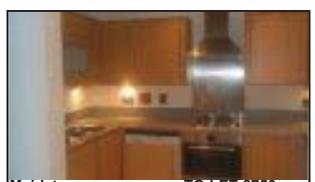
GillinghamPrice Range £275,000 £295,000
- 3 / 4 BEDROOM HOME
- 2 / 3 RECEPTIONS
- 2 FURTHER LOFT ROOMS
- SOME ORIGINAL FEATURES

REF: Rainham_61642S



Chatham £125,000
- 2 BEDROOM TERRACED
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE

REF: Walderslade_62977S



Maidstone TO LET £750pcm
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOM APARTMENT
- KITCHEN WITH INTEGRATED APLLIANCES
- LOUNGE WITH BALCONY
- ALLOCATED PARKING FOR 1 CAR

REF: inst-338



SittingbourneGUIDE PRICE £85,000 - £95,000
- 1 BEDROOM DEBUT HOME
- LOUNGE / DINER
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- COMMUNAL GARDENS

REF: Rainham_60563S



Frindsbury £164,995
- 3 BEDROOM HOME
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CLOSE TO TRAIN STATION
- INTERNAL VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REF: Walderslade_60181S



SittingbourneGuide Price £110,000 - £130,000
- 3 BEDROOM TERRACE HOME
- KITCHEN / DINER
- LOUNGE
- CUL DE SAC POSITON

REF: Rainham_60045S



Chatham £189,995
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- GARAGE

REF: Walderslade_60484S



Sittingbounre TO LET £695pcm
- 1 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
- FITTED KITCHEN
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
- INTERAL VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REF: inst-299



Sittingbourne Over 55's £144,950
- RETIREMENT FLAT
- GROUND FLOOR
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- DOUBLE GLAZING

REF: Rainham_60043S



Lordwood £250,000
- 3 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- DOUBLE GLAZED CONSERVATORY
- MODERN KITCHEN / DINER
- HOT TUB AND SAUNA ROOM

REF: Walderslade_61788S



Rainham £270,000
- 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
- 2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- SEMI RURAL LOCATION

REF: Rainham_60591S



Rainham £275,000
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham_62427S



Gillingham TO LET £695pcm
- 3 BEDROOM TERRACED PROPERTY
- LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REF: inst-337



Gillingham £169,995
- 3 BEDROOMS
- TERRACE HOUSE
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- CONSERVATORY

REF: Rainham_62027S



Maidstone OIEO £130,000
- CONVERSION APARTMENT
- 2 BEDROOMS
- TOWN CENTRE
- SASH WINDOWS

REF: Walderslade_61150S



Rochester £420,000
- NEW PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT
- 4/5 DETACHED EXECUTIVE HOMES
- 6 PLOTS AVAILABLE
- GAMES ROOMS/FAMILY ROOMS

REF: Walderslade_60992S



Chatham £139,995
- END OF TERRACE HOUSE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- SUITABLE FOR GROWING FAMILY
- GOOD SIZED ACCOMMODATION

REF: Walderslade_60140S



Chatham TO LET £650pcm
- 2 DOUBLE BED TERRACED HOME
- REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER
- PAVED REAR GARDEN

REF: Palmerston

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Chartham Hatch £309,950

Three bedroom semi detached home. Due to the size of the plot it would be ideal for operating a business. Lounge, conservatory, kitchen/diner, bathroom.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



Dunkirk £375,000

Four bedroom detached house. Lounge. Dining room. Fitted kitchen, utility room. En-suite to master bedroom and a bathroom. Two garages.

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Wingham Offers in excess of £159,000

Two bedroom end of terrace retirement property situated in the village of Wingham offering local bus stop, village stores and post office and a couple of banks.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



Canterbury Offers in excess of £215,000

Two bedroom first floor flat. Lounge/kitchen diner. En-suite shower room and family bathroom. Electric storage heating. Parking.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253

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Canterbury £215,000

Two bedroom semi detached bungalow. No chain. Garage. Conservatory.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



Chestfield £220,000

Ideal for expansion to side and rear, lounge, dinning room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom first floor offers 2 bedrooms. Approx 120ft rear garden, driveway and garage.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



Faversham £124,995

Two bedroom second floor apartment with the remainder of a 10 year NHBC, en suite to master bedroom, fitted kitchen and secure entry phone system. No chain.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Sittingbourne £159,950

Two bedroom property which forms part of an Old School Development in Teynham. D/glazing, C/heating, fitted kitchen and bathroom. No chain.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Selling £225,000

Extended 3 bedroom home. Great kitchen/dining room, conservatory, garden that backs onto farmland. No chain.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Faversham £270,000

Three bedroom detached house. Two reception areas both with access to the garden. Garage. Would strongly recommend an appointment to view.

Faversham Office 01795 538112

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Ashford £94,950

Two bedroom first floor flat. Intercom entry system, communal hallway, bathroom, modern fitted kitchen, 15 ft lounge/diner, c/heating, double glazing, internal & external sheds.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford Offers in excess of £99,950

Two bedroom apartment, intercom security entry, d/glazing, c/heating, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, three piece white bathroom suite.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £150,000

Two bedroom bungalow. Modern fitted kitchen and both bedrooms boast en-suite facilities. Block paved courtyard. Off road parking and space for an additional two cars.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £235,000

Four bedroom townhouse, two receptions, two cellars, development potential, central location, conservation road.

Ashford Office 01233 624561

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Ashford OIEO £160,000

1920's style three bedroom semi detached with through lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, downstairs bathroom and lean to, garage, rear mature garden, c/heating and d/ glazing.

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Ashford £259,000

Four bedroom detached home, 20ft long lounge, dining room, kitchen with integral appliances, downstairs WC, utility room, en suite to main bedroom. Detached garage and driveway.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Kennington £290,000

Three bedroom detached cottage style property, Bockhanger Lodge is set back from the lane, front and rear gardens, two reception rooms, downstairs cloak room.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Challock Offers Over £325,000

Five bedroom property in a cul de sac. Cloakroom, kitchen, brick-built conservatory, study, lounge, en suite and dressing room to master, bathroom. Double garage, off-road parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Brookland £350,000

Five bedroom detached property. Main part of house dating back to18th Century. Four reception rooms, two bathrooms. Outbuilding. Off road parking. Approximately 1/5th of an acre.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £465,000

NO CHAIN. Five bedroom, four storey semi detached. Two reception rooms, conservatory, cloakroom & 2 bathrooms. Swimming pool and hot tub, electric gates leading to a double garage.

Ashford Office 01233 624561

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Shepherdswell £225,000

Two/three bedroom detached bungalow. Conservatory. Double glazing & central heating. Countryside views.

Dover Office 01304 207099



New Romney £210,000

End of terrace family house offering four bedrooms plus upstairs bathroom, lounge / diner, sun lounge and laundry room, garage and off road parking. No chain.

New Romney 01797 363194



Dover £115,000

immaculate two bedroom semi detached, this would be an idle first time buy. lounge, fitted kitchen, utility area, downstairs shower room and front and enclosed rear garden.

Dover Office 01304 207099



Folkestone £135,000

Three bedroom family home. Arranged over three floors with kitchen and dining room, lounge and family bathroom. The property also has a garden to the rear, double glazing and gas central heating.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757

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Dover £132,500

This three bedroom town house. The property offers the new owners a kitchen, lounge, integral garage and will be fitted with new UPVC double glazing.

Dover Office 01304 207099



Folkestone £349,995

Substantial six bedroom semi detached family home. Four reception rooms. Three bathrooms. Separate w.c. Conservatory. Utility room. Enclosed garden to rear.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757



Dover £230,000

three bedroom detached bungalow in the sought after location of River. lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, conservatory, bathroom w.c, with a lawned front garden, with driveway.

Dover Office 01304 207099



Dover £299,950

unique opportunity to purchase this truly distinctive home with many original features, situated on a raised position in Temple Ewell with views

Kearsney Office 01304 823714



Lydd £149,995

Extended three bedroom end of terrace family home offering lounge, dining room and study. Master bedroom with dressing area.

New Romney 01797 363194



Lydd on Sea £190,000

Three bedroom detached bungalow with panoramic views to front and rear. Shower room, sun room, lounge/diner with sea view, garage and off road parking.

New Romney 01797 363194

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Eastchurch

- Four bedroom detached house
- three reception rooms,
- kitchen with utility area
- conservatory
- En-suite and bathroom
- off road parking, double garage
- log cabin with power

£450,000

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Sittingbourne

- well presented detached
- four bedrooms, two receptions,
- gas fired central heating,

Fixed Price £269,995

CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sheerness

- Five bedrooms, two receptions,
- three en-suites, tandem garage
- off road parking.

Fixed Price £250,000

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Sheerness

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Two receptions. Utility room.
- Games room. Downstairs bathroom.

£190,000

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Sittingbourne

- Four Bedroom semi detached
- two receptions, utility room,
- garage and off street parking.

OIEO £185,000

CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sittingbourne

- Spacious two bedroom bungalow
- double glazing, central heating,
- block paved driveway,

OIEO £165,000

CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sheerness

- Re-modernised Two bedroom bungalow
- New Kitchen and Shower Suite.
- Popular Halfway location.

£155,000

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Sittingbourne

- Three bedroom semi detached
- No chain. Close to amenities.
- Double glazing. Gas central heating.

OIEO £150,000

CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sheerness

- Brand new Impressive
- Two bedroom holiday home
- Lounge, fitted kitchen, loft room

Asking Price £120,000

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Warden

- Two bedroom bungalow.
- Located in Warden Bay. No chain.
- Driveway and Garage. Viewing advised.

Guide Price £115,000

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Kemsley

- Two bedroom terraced,
- lounge and dining room, bathroom
- courtyard garden. loft room

£109,995

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Kingsnorth
- Three bedroom detached home
- Lounge and dining room
- Conservatory
- En-suite shower room
- Garage

£212,000
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Ashford
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- Ccloakroom, bathroom, gardens

£210,000
CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Ashford
- Grade II listed town house
- Two receptions, three bedrooms
- Bathroom and cellar room

£199,950
CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Ashford
- Its all about location
- Lounge and dining area and kitchen
- Gardens on a corner plot, garage

£187,000
CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Willesborough
- Three bedroom terrace house
- Sitting room and kitchen/diner
- Family bathroom and gardens

£169,995
CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Willesborough
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Garage, conservatory/utility
- No chain

Offers in excess of £165,000
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Ashford
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Double glazed, gas central heating
- Cavity wall installation, garden, parking

Offers in excess of £160,000
CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Sellindge
- Two bedroom terraced house
- Cloakroom, kitchen, lounge,
- Conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom

£155,000
CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Ashford
- Three bedroom terrace house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Cloakroom, room with various means

£129,995
CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Ashford
- Two bedroom mid terrace
- Central heating, double glazing,
- Downstairs w.c., cul de sac position

Fixed Price £119,950
CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



PUBLIC NOTICE
1st Floor Flat, 88 Newtown Green, Ashford, Kent, TN24 OPL
By order of the mortgagees in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £73,000 (Seventy three thousand pounds). Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer during the course of the next seven days.
Agent: Mann Countrywide, 119 Church Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0JQ. Tel: 01233 635737

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Canterbury

- Superbly presented
- Four bedroom detached home
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- Utility room, family bathroom
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Off road parking and garage

Offers in excess of £350,000

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Barham

- Three bedroom detached
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, bathroom, garden

£400,000

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury

- Two receptions and kitchen
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Good sized garden, garage

Offers in excess of £280,000

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Sturry

- Extended four bedroom semi detached
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen,
- Bathroom, two downstairs bedrooms

£199,995

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Canterbury

- Open plan lounge/diner
- Kitchen, ground floor bathroom.
- Garden to the rear, two bedrooms

£170,000

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Sturry

- Two bedroom terrace
- Lounge and dining room
- Garden, No chain, Must be viewed

£165,000

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



St. Nicholas at Wade

- Two bedroom terraced home
- Viewing essential
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen

Offers in excess of £165,000

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Sturry

- Two bedroom semi detached
- Kitchen, lounge/dining room
- Cloakroom, bathroom, off road parking

£157,000

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury

- Two bedroom ground floor apartment
- Lounge, dining room
- Recently decorated bathroom and kitchen

Offers in excess of £139,995

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury

- Two bedroom first floor flat
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Separate toilet and bathroom

£125,000

CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Aylesham

- NO CHAIN. Two bedroom terrace
- Lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom
- Double glazing, central heating

£119,995

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Bairstow eves

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Countrywide

Wingham



Asking Price £65,000

One bedroom ground floor flat offered as 50% Shared Ownership. Allocated parking space. Village location.

Aylesham



OIRO £117,000

Modern two bedroom terraced house. Improved by the present vendors. C/heating and allocated parking.

Aylesham



£132,500

Three bedroom end terraced home. Off road parking, rear gardens, d/glazed windows and doors. c/heating.

Hersden



£154,995

Two bedroom property in cul-de-sac. Lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory. Rear garden & allocated parking.

Canterbury



£185,000

Three bed modern style end terraced home with driveway/garage facilities and situated in a cul-de-sac location.

Canterbury



£189,950

Semi-detached bungalow. Off road parking, rear gardens. D/glazing, c/heating, kitchen & lounge/conservatory.

Canterbury



£248,950

No Onward Chain. Four bed detached home in a cul-de-sac. Cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory.

Canterbury



£254,950

CHAIN FREE. Three Bed Semi-Detached home. C/heating, d/glazing, conservatory, utility room with cloakroom, garage.

Canterbury



£350,000

Three bedroom semi-detached home. Driveway, garage, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and bathroom/wc.

Ramsgate



£415,000

Three reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. Four bedrooms, one with en suite and bathroom.

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Bairstow eves

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Countrywide

Ashford



£124,950

Well presented top floor flat. Modern kitchen & bathroom. Garage. Long lease.

Ashford



£129,995

Terrace house. Two bed, bathroom, kitchen, lounge/diner. Gardens & garage. Chain free with vacant possession.

Ashford



OIEO £150,000

Improved end of terrace chalet house in a private location close to local amenities.

Kennington



£164,995

CHAIN FREE. Three Bed End of Terrace.Lounge, Kitchen/Diner and Bathroom. Front and Rear Gardens.

Sellindge



£179,950

Attached cottage style house. Village location. Three bedroom. Living Room. Luxury bathroom. Modern kitchen.

Ashford



£179,995

Family home with three bedrooms. Front and rear gardens plus garage. Viewing are highly recommended.

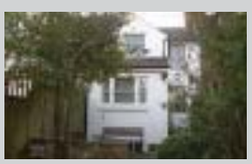
Willesborough



£189,000

Four bedroom. Lounge, kitchen, conservatory/lean to and bathroom. C/heating, d/ glazing, cloakroom. No chain.

Ashford



£189,500

Victorian character home with modernised accommodation yet retaining period features. Approx. 70' rear garden.

Kennington



£210,000

CHAIN FREE. Three bed semi detached home. En-suite to master, lounge, kitchen/diner. Garage & off street parking.

Willesborough



£245,000

Four bed semi detached home. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, laundry room, off road parking & garage.

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Bairstow eves

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Countrywide

Sittingbourne



£81,000

NO CHAIN. One bedroom flat, open plan lounge/kitchen, separate bedroom, bathroom. Allocated parking.

Sittingbourne



OIEO £110,000

One bed apartment. C/heating & d/glazing. Offers remainder of the NHBC warranty, communal garden, garage with parking.

Sittingbourne



£120,000

No chain, bay fronted end of terrace house, c/heating, d/glazing, fireplaces, rear garden.

Iwade



£124,995

Two bedroom ground floor apartment. Village location. En-suite shower room to master bedroom.

Sittingbourne



£147,500

Four bed terrace house. D/glazing and c/heating. En suite to master, garden, lounge and diner. No forward chain.

Kemsley



£149,995

Semi-detached bungalow. Two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and d/glazed /brick based lean to.

Teynham



£159,995

Three bedroom house, very good order throughout. D/glazing and c/heating. Garage to rear of garden.

Sittingbourne



£169,995

Three bed 1930's style home. Subject to relevant planning permissions the property may provide scope for extending. NO CHAIN.

Conyer



£194,995

Three bed detached house. D/glazing, c/heating, lounge & kitchen opening to dining area, bathroom. Garden & garage.

Sittingbourne



£225,000

Three bedroom detached house. Downstairs cloakroom. Approx 23ft lounge/dining room. Garage.

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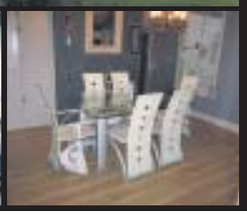
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Countrywide

DOVER
Dover 01304 201806







£240,000

Situated in the sought after Castle Avenue and ideally positioned for Dover Town Centre and all educational and recreational facilities.

Viewing is recommended of this substantial Victorian town house. The accommodation is arranged over four floors and comprises: entrance hall, reception/bedroom 5, dining room and kitchen on the ground floor, lounge/dining room with original bi-folding doors and with original feature fire place with marble surrounds and bathroom on the upper ground floor with two bedrooms a piece on the remaining two floors.

The property sits on an elevated plot, set back from the road with lawn and path to front door plus an enclosed rear garden.

FOLKESTONE
Folkestone 01303 259211







£159,995

Offered for sale with no chain! Recently refurbished - internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property located in the West End of Folkestone.

The property is ideally situated within close proximity to Folkestone Central main line station with its high speed rail link to London.

The accommodation comprises of an integrated lounge and kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. In addition a new lease will be created with 125 years and is to include Share of Freehold.

There is also the possibility of purchasing a garage separately.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Dover 01304 201806



59 Lowther Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0BE

We are acting for the mortgagees have received an offer of £85,500 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts can take place.

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FOLKESTONE
Folkestone 01303 259211





£164,950

NO CHAIN. Ideal investment opportunity or for a home mover. There is currently a tenant in situe who is keen to continue letting the property.

Benefits include private access and private garden.

WHITFIELD
Dover 01304 201806





OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £330,000

Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow is set in the sought after location of Whitfield. Block paved drive suited for Off Road Parking for about six cars and also includes a Garage. Entrance Hall, large Kitchen/Diner, large Living Room, Large Utility Room, Study, Bathroom and a Shower Room.

FOLKESTONE
Folkestone 01303 259211





£172,500

Three bedroom family home. Two reception rooms with fireplaces. Kitchen. Family bathroom. Double glazing and central heating.

DOVER
Dover 01304 201806



OIAO £95,000

Two bedroom terraced house close by to Dover hospital and local amenities, comprising a lounge, and bathroom to the ground floor and two bedrooms.

DOVER
Dover 01304 201806



OIAO £130,000

One bed ground floor apartment block The Gateway. Vlews of the harbour and ferry port to the front and the Dover Castle on the cliff top to the rear.

FOLKESTONE
Folkestone 01303 259211



£87,500

Fifth floor retirement flat with views across the gardens to the sea from the bedroom. Lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, double glazing, communal gardens.

FOLKESTONE
Folkestone 01303 259211



£105,000

Two bedroom lower ground floor flat within close proximity to local amenites and train link to london. Offered for sale with no chain.

FOLKESTONE
Folkestone 01303 259211



FIXED PRICE £129,995

Mid terrace, three storey property offered for sale with no chain. Benefits include new wiring, heating system and boiler, bathroom, kitchen and decoration throughout.

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FOLKESTONE £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03134
- 3 bed terraced
- 2 reception rooms
- Large garden and no chain



FOLKESTONE £229,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03122
- 3 bed semi detached bungalow
- Private rear garden
- Single garage



CHERITON £159,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03027
- 3 bedroom mid terraced
- Lounge/Diner
- DG and GCH



CHERITON OIEO £204,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03103
- Modern 4 bedroom family home
- Bathroom & Shower room
- Potential 5th bed parking5



DOVER £144,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03069
- 4 bedroom terrace
- GFCH & DG
- Private rear garden



WHITFIELD £185,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03167
- 3 bedroom semi
- Garage and driveway
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £190.000

FOLKESTONE HFP03172
- 4 bed terraced house
- 19 foot kitchen.diner
- Fully DG/GCH



FOLKESTONE £125,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03180
- 3 bed terraced house
- GFCH/DG
- Good Investment/ FTB



FOLKESTONE £109,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03137
- Two bedroom apartment
- Balcony
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £82,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03071
- One bedroom first floor flat
- Large lounge
- Built-in wardrobes



CHERITON £118,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03127
- 2 bedroom terrace
- Private rear garden
- No chain



CHERITON £199,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03010
- 3 bed detached
- Garage and driveway
- Private rear garden



FOLKESTONE £359,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03092
- 8 bedroom semi detached
- 5 bathrooms
- No chain



CHERITON £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02098
- 3 bedroom flat
- Large rooms
- New kitchen and bathroom



FOLKESTONE £369,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03126
- 3 bedroom detached
- Approx 1.5 acres of land
- No chain/Quick sale required



HAWKINGE £220.000

FOLKESTONE HFP03186
- 4 bed semi-detached
- Garage
- Popular village location



FOLKESTONE 89.995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03088
- One bedroom flat
- Private rear garden
- Close to the town centre



FOLKESTONE £144,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03159
- 3 bedroom terraced house
- Good size rear garden
- Suberb condition



FOLKESTONE £127,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03144
- 2 bedroom terraced
- Good sized rear garden
- Modern fitted bathroom suite



DOVER £105,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02842
- Two double bed flat
- Study
- NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE £154,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02440
- Spacious Maisonette, no chain
- 2 Bedrooms, extended lounge
- Split level, own garden



WEST END £139.950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02526
- 3 Bedrooms top floor flat
- Views over Grimston Gardens
- No chain, share of freehold



FOLKESTONE £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03077
- Three bed town-house
- Integral garage
- GCH/DG



FOLKESTONE £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02962
- Victorian terraced house
- 4 Bedrooms
- Modern kitchen and double glazed



FOLKESTONE £149,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02724
- 3 Bedroom family home
- Lounge/diner, extended kitchen
- Double glazing, play area to loft

FOLKESTONE t 01303 255 335 **DOVER** t 01304 202 111 w milesandbarr.co.uk

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BIRCHINGTON £285,000

- Three Bedroom Detached Home
- Sought After Cul-De-Sac Setting
- Open Sea Views over Epple Bay



RAMSGATE £385,000

- Outstanding 6 bed detached
- Rural Views - High Standards
- NO CHAIN AHEAD



RAMSGATE £159,995

- Modern 2 Bedroom Home
- Immaculate Condition
- Garden & Allocated Parking



RAMSGATE £234,995

- Five bedrooms
- Eastcliff location
- No Forward Chain



BROADSTAIRS £250,000

- Detached three bedroom bungalow
- Off street parking and garage
- Sought after location



MINSTER £225,000

- Modern 3 bed link detached
- No chain - Beautiful position
- After a quick sale



PEGWELL £225,000

- Double fronted det bungalow
- Lavish Gds
- Sought after location



RAMSGATE £239,995

- TOO MUCH HOUSE
- Detached family Home
- Conservatory - Lavish Gds



CLIFFSEND £229,995

- 4 Beds & 4 Rec Rooms
- Fine Period Features
- 130"gardens



RAMSGATE £169,995

- Extended 3 Bed Semi
- Off Street Parking
- 2 Receps plus kitchen/Diner



RAMSGATE £124,995

- Panoramic Harbour Views
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lift Service & No Chain



RAMSGATE £129,995

- 2 Bed Victorian Terrace
- Sought After Location
- No Chain Involved



RAMSGATE £149,995

- 3 Bedroom Victorian Terrace
- Some Modernisation Required
- No Chain Involved





RAMSGATE £159,995

- Four bedrooms
- Double Glazed
- 50ft garden



RAMSGATE £114,995

- Two bedrooms
- Central heated
- Double glazed



RAMSGATE £64,995

- One bed retirement apartment
- Eastcliff Location
- No Chain



RAMSGATE £124,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
- 45' Rear Garden



RAMSGATE £139,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Off street parking & garage
- No onward chain



BROADSTAIRS £299,995

- 4 Bed Detached, En-Suite
- Large Family Conservatory
- Prime Broadstairs Location



RAMSGATE £234,995

- 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Outstanding Condition
- Fantastic Location



RAMSGATE £275,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- En-suite, 2 Receptions & Gardens
- Outstanding condition & location



RAMSGATE £239,995

- Extended 4 Bedroom Detached
- Lovely Interior and Gardens
- Beautiful & Spacious Interior



BROADSTAIRS £270,000

- Detached luxury
- 3 beds,17' lounge
- Immaculate throughout



BROADSTAIRS £169,500

- A Stones Throw From The Seafront
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Sea Views - No Chain



BROADSTAIRS £595,000

- Executive 4/5 bed home
- Highly Spec'd, Balcony with Sea Views
- No Chain Keys Available



BROADSTAIRS £139,950

- Warden Assisted 2 bed
- Second Floor Lift service
- Minutes from Viking Bay



BROADSTAIRS £199,950

- Sought after location
- 3 bedrooms
- Garage in block



CLIFTONVILLE £167,500

- 2 beds, Close to Sea!
- Garage, O/S/P, Gardens
- Conservatory, Cul-De-Sac



MARGATE £164,995

- 2 bed semi detached
- Close to Park & Library
- No forward chain



BROADSTAIRS £147,500

- Large Gardens
- 2 Bedrooms, Pot O/S/P
- No Chain!

RAMSGATE t 01843 570 500 **CLIFTONVILLE** t 01843 231 222 **WESTGATE** t 01843 836 655 **milesandbarr.co.uk/thanet**

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BROADSTAIRS £279,950

- Detached Bungalow with Farm Views!
- 3 Bedrooms, 24'Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location, 80' x 50' Rear Garden



MARGATE £184,995

- Substantial family home
- Close to amenities and sea
- Ideal for a project



MARGATE £214,995

- Family Home on a Large Corner Plot
- 4 Beds, 3 Receptions
- Packed with Original Features !!



WESTBROOK £247,995

- Three Double Bed Detached Cottage
- 100ft Rear Gardens
- Deceptively spacious



WESTBROOK £249,995

- 4/5 Bed Semi
- No Forward Chain
- Osp, Gfch & Sudg



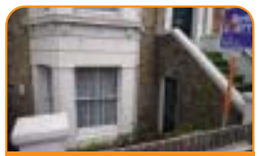
CLIFTONVILLE £99,995

- 1 Bedroom Purpose Built Apartment
- Sought After Location, O/S/P
- No Chain! Pakm Bay Location



MARGATE £79,995

- Modernised 2 bedroom flat
- No Forward Chain !!
- Close to sea and local amenities



MARGATE £77,500

- No Foward Chain
- Ideal Investment or FTB
- Spacious living accommodation & garden !!!



MARGATE £99,995

- 2 bed, purpose built flat
- Ideal BTL
- No Forward Chain



MARGATE £124,995

- Spacious living accommodation
- 3 beds, 2 rec, 1 bath
- Ideal family home



MARGATE £124,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking & 70ft Garden
- No Onward Chain



PALM BAY £279,995

- Six Double Bedrooms
- 23'2 x 17'8 Lounge
- Sea Views



MARGATE £75,000

- Two bedrooms
- Split level apartment
- No onward chain



MARGATE £209,995

- 4/5 Bedroom Period Home
- Immaculate Throughout
- Off Street Parking



MARGATE £39,995

- Spacious One Bed Apartment
- Stunning Sea Views
- Chain Free!



GARLINGE £114,995

- Perfect Two Bedroom Home
- 50ft Rear Garden
- Vacant Possession!



MARGATE £134,995

- 3 bed, terraced house
- Close to local amenities and schools
- Great value for money !!



MARGATE £159,995

- Charming 2 Bed Bungalow
- Quiet Sought After Location
- Viewing Essential



MARGATE £189,995

- Six Bedroom Semi
- Sought After Location
- Chain Free!



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £145,000

- No Forward Chain
- Lovingly Rennovated Throughout
- 2 Bedrooms & Brand New Bathroom



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £215,000

- Stunning Refurbished Throughout
- 2/3 Bedrooms
- No Foward Chain



WESTBROOK £197,500

- Sought After Family Home
- Three Bedrooms & Conservatory
- No Forward Chain



WESTBROOK £229,995

- 3/4 Bed Detached
- Double Garage
- Sudg. Gfch & Osp



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £135,000

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Delightful Garden
- No Forward Chain



BIRCHINGTON £110,000

- Two Double Bedroom
- Apartment
- Ground Floor, Self Contained



BIRCHINGTON £159,995

- Sought After Location
- 3 Bedrooms & 2 Receptions
- Garage & Parking



BIRCHINGTON £215,000

- Four Double Bedrooms & EnSuite
- Semi-Detached + OSP + Garage
- NHBC Guaranteed



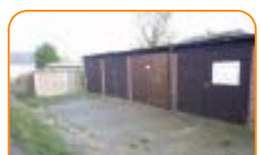
BIRCHINGTON £239,950

- Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Fully Refurbished Throughout
- Family Bathroom + En-Suite



MARGATE £119,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
- No Onward Chain



MARGATE £29,950

- Investment Opportunity
- 4 Garages
- Ideal Location



RAMSGATE £119,995

- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Some TLC Required
- No Chain Involved

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Broadstairs £245,000

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Birchington £299,995

Detached House, Four Bedrooms, Stunning Sea Views, Quiet Sought After Location, Excellent Order Throughout, Garage Plus Drive



Broadstairs £144,995

Terraced House, Two Bedrooms, Good Condition Throughout, Double Glazing, Central Heating, No Onwards Chain



Margate £149,995

Semi Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Excellent Order Throughout, Conservatory, No Onwards Chain, Off Street Parking



Palm Bay £299,995

Detached Bungalow, Five Bedrooms, Excellent Order Throughout, En Suite Facility, Approx 90ft Garden, Highly Desirable Location



Margate £157,500

Terraced House, Double Fronted, Three Bedrooms, Excellent Order, Spacious Accommodation, Conservatory



Margate £199,950

Semi Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom + Shower Room, No Onwards Chain, Off Street Parking, Extensive Refurbishment



Broadstairs £135,000

Second Floor Flat, Superbly Presented, One Bedroom, Sea Views, Central Heating, No Onwards Chain –

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Margate £194,995

Town House, Four Bedrooms, En Suite Facility, Immaculately Presented, Off Street Parking, NHBC Certificate



Cliffsend £275,000

Detached Bungalow, Four Bedrooms, Sought After Location, Tandem Garage Plus Drive, Bathroom + Shower Room, Central Heating



Ramsgate £165,000

Detached Bungalow, Three Bedrooms, No Onwards Chain, Northwood Location, Garage Plus Drive, Double Glazing



Ramsgate £174,995

Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Tandem Garage Plus Drive, No Onwards Chain, Northwood Location



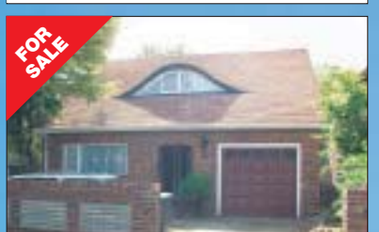
Broadstairs £675,000

Detached House, Three/Four Bedrooms, Stunning Indoor Pool, 360 Degree Private Gardens, Character Features, Detached Studio



Cliftonville £199,950

Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Corner Plot, Immaculate Order Throughout, Gardens To Front, Side, Rear



Margate £215,000

Detached Chalet Bungalow, Four Bedrooms, Spacious Accommodation, Integral Garage, Within School Catchments, Cavity Wall Insulation



Broadstairs £329,995

Semi Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Large Plot, Contemporary Style, Private Driveway, Sought After Location



Broadstairs £305,000

Semi Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Highly Desirable Location, Character Features, Sea Views, No Onwards Chain

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- Over 2 Floors, Substantial Plot

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Herne Bay | Price Range: £525,000 - £550,000
- 5 Bedroom Detached Executive Family Home
- Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory
- En-suite Facilities to Master Bedroom

HERNE BAY OFFICE | 01227 361226



Walmer | Price Range: £475,000 - £525,000
- Formally The Original Officer Stables
- 4 Bedrooms, Lounge, Dining Hall & Garden Room
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. Garage & Parking

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



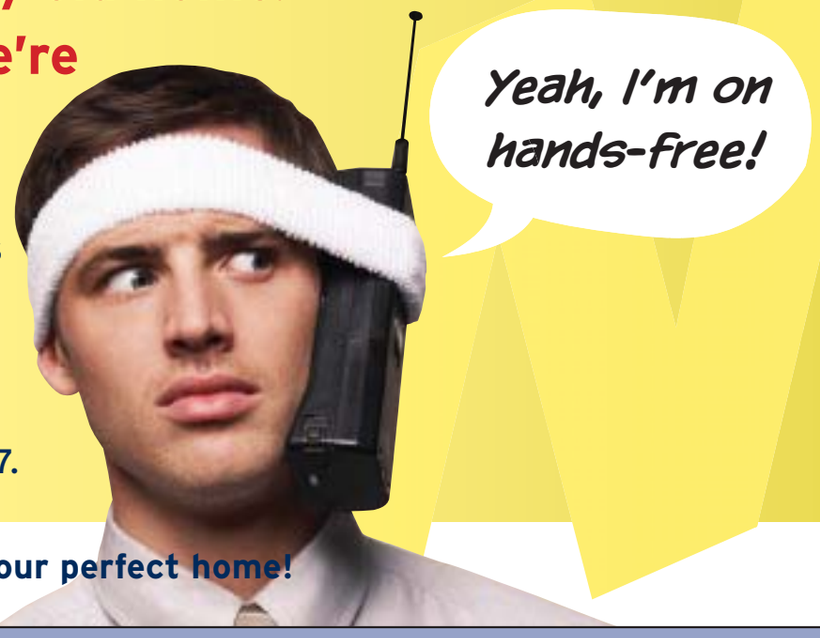
Herne Bay | Price Range: £420,000 - £450,000
- Imposing Listed Georgian 5 Bed Terraced Home
- Outstanding Sea Views from all 5 Floors
- Modern Fitments, 4 Reception Rooms

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Acol | Price Range: £400,000 - £440,000
- Four bedroom detached residence
- Four receptions, kitchen/breakfast room
- Utility, three ensuites, Two garages

BIRCHINGTON OFFICE | 01843 842551



Broadstairs | Price Range: £395,000 - £450,000
- Executive 4 bedroom detached new build
- 2 receptions, luxury kitchen, 2 en-suites
- Garage, driveway, no chain

BROADSTAIRS OFFICE | 01843 602546



Kingsdown | Price Range: £355,000 - £385,000
- Substantial 4/5 Bedroom Family Home
- Sought After Village Location
- Good Sized Gardens & No Onward Chain

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range: £345,000 - £385,000
- Beautifully Presented 4 Bedroom Detached
- Stunning En-Suite & Bathroom
- Sought After Location & No Chain!

DEAL - 01304 361420



Herne Bay | Price Range: £330,000 - £360,000
- 4 Bedroom Executive Style Bungalow
- 3 En-suites, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory
- Garden Measuring in Excess of 90'

HERNE BAY OFFICE | 01227 361226

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Cover picture: THE ESTATE OF BETTY SWANWICK 2010. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. This page: MARC CHAGALL © ADAGP, PARIS AND DACS, LONDON 2009

CROSS PURPOSES: Left and top: Marc Chagall's study for east window five, All Saints' Church, Tudeley 1966-78. Above, An extract of Marc Chagall's study for the north windows at the church. Cover picture: Betty Swanwick's The Lost Wilderness 1974-75

nise and associate with man's cruelty to another man. We understand the suffering," Hepburn said. "It's an image like many in art history, which artists have revisited in many ways.

"One of the starting points of the exhibition is a copy of the New York Times from 2004, which was the first time images of the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq were shown and there was an image of a hooded figure in black, made to stand with their arms out in crucifixion. The power of it was that we associate it with the crucifixion and it stands for so much more."

For Mascalls Gallery, which stands on the campus of Mascalls School in Maidstone Road, hosting this high-profile exhibition by important artists is another big achievement in its relatively short history.

"Since the gallery opened in 2006, we've been gradually increasing our profile in the area and had works by artists like Henry Moore and LS Lowry," Hepburn said. "We've been working hard on this and hopefully it will raise our profile from the regional to the national scene."

• Cross Purposes opens on Friday and runs until May 29, before touring to Ben Uri, the London Jewish Museum of Art. Mascalls Gallery is open from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and 11am to 4pm, Friday and Saturday. Admission is free. See www.mascallsgallery.org or call 01892 839039.

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Safe haven for Sunday

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY ERICA JONES

THE local pub has a tough job. It has to be many things to many people, it's a welcoming place, warm and cosy, with a good choice of beer and an atmosphere that's just so.

And then there's the food. The local can often be forgiven for not providing food, but when it does it has to get it right. There's nothing worse than sitting drinking your beer while your nostrils are assaulted by the smell of over-priced reheated gunk that not even the most evil of school dinner ladies would've served up.

So when I heard last year that The Coopers Arms had been taken over and started serving food at select times I was concerned.

I can hardly call myself a regular, but when I do make one of my irregular visits it's because I know I'm returning to a safe haven. Somewhere that's free from the scantily clad girls roaming the high street, where I can sit, drink and relax with friends.

Thankfully my fears were unfounded, and this cosy little historic pub near the castle remains every bit as welcoming as it ever was. So to celebrate I took two friends along to sample the offerings from the kitchen.

On arrival we were met by the wonderful smell of home-cooked Sunday dinner, of meats and vegetables and all the delicious things that started our mouths watering the moment we entered. And we were not to be disappointed.

The menu gave us three choices of starter, three mains and two puddings.

I went for the portobello mushrooms with stilton and breadcrumbs, with the cheese melting in my mouth. The stilton was very strong, but this dish was delicious.



My guests had homemade French onion soup, and salt and pepper squid with salad and sweet chilli dip and were also both impressed, the squid being swiftly devoured and the soup a warming start to the meal.

For the main we again had one of each choice – beef, lamb and chicken with all the trimmings. To my delight this also came with a side order of cauliflower cheese for us to fight over, I mean serve at our leisure.

The man in our group had chosen the lamb and swiftly cleared his plate, while us ladies struggled to finish the ample portions, but all three of us were happy.

My chicken was moist and tender and practically fell from the bone, and our third gleefully declared her beef to be the best she'd had since her grandma used to make it.

The selection of vegetables also ticked all the right boxes, with roast potatoes that had just the right amount of crunch and that all important cauliflower cheese, which was simply divine.

Nicely stuffed, we could've ended there, but pudding was on the menu. My guests choose the egg custard tart and rice pudding, both homemade of course.

As someone scarred by school dinners, nothing could get me to eat either of those choices so I instead asked for a bowl of ice-cream. This was unfortunately unavailable, but the barmaid quickly offered me a selection of other desserts and I selected Eve's pudding. Who needs ice-cream when you've got a delicious sponge with cooked apples?

The three of us were once again pleased with our choices and finished the meal stuffed and unwilling to venture out into the cold afternoon. So instead we relaxed over drinks and enjoyed the atmosphere of the pub, eventually leaving several hours later because it was time for our afternoon snooze.

Food, several pints of guest ale and a few healthy orange juices came to a very reasonable total of £52.95 for the three of us.

Sunday lunch is priced at £8.95 for one course, £11.50 for two, or £13.95. The Coopers also offers a curry club, which this reviewer can't wait to try.

The Coopers Arms, St Margarets Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1TL
Telephone: 01634 404298

Review visits and pays for meals anonymously.

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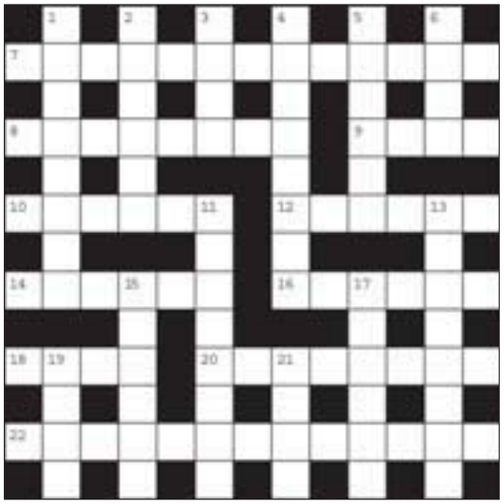
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Send your completed grids to KoS, Prize Crossword, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR. Closing date is Wednesday, March 3.



CROSSWORD No 376

Name.....

Address

.....

.....

.....

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

7. They are announced before the union is set up (8,5)
8. They break down while working (8)
9. They stop people telling jokes (4)
10. Remained abnormally steady (6)
12. But it's not included in Russian waters! (3,3)
14. A fearful noise is very funny! (6)
16. Seat is adjusted for a nap (6)
18. Toilet requisite put in a metal container (4)
20. Commonwealth citizen I'd put back in the Promised Land (8)
22. What broadcasters indulge in can have a harmful effect on health (13)

Down

1. This kind of field is naturally attractive (8)
2. How people speak or listen, we hear! (6)
3. The top of the form is missing - it's a girl (4)
4. Sweets that are merited, one hears (8)
5. Chaffed for being shabbily dressed (6)
6. Comfortable with arms raised (4)
11. He's included in a party of Americans (8)
13. Takes out obsolete pamphlets (8)
15. Different clue I had for the geometer (6)
17. To finish off I have some chicory (6)
19. A method to be used on holiday (4)
21. This will produce a sound memorandum (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE

QUICK CLUES

Across

7. Contemporary happenings (7,6)
8. Quell (8)
9. Delude (4)
10. Complied (6)
12. Detain (6)
14. Emergency (6)
16. Clothe (6)
18. A continent (4)
20. Entranced (8)
22. Orally (2,4,2,5)

Down

1. Salad plant (8)
2. Prize (6)
3. At one time (4)
4. Convince (8)
5. Offer (6)
6. Desist (4)
11. Comes down (8)
13. Sedateness (8)
15. Flavour (6)
17. Motive (6)
19. Inflamed eye-lid (4)
21. Secure (4))

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS 375: Across: 1 Flat; 8 Remarriage; 9 Composed; 10 Pots; 12 Barons; 14 Lascar; 15 Cogent; 17 Manger; 18 Dyes; 19 Remedial; 21 Supercargo; 22 Rest. Down: 2 Laboratory; 3 Trap; 4 Amuses; 5 Bridal; 6 Diapason; 7 Less; 11 Trade-marks; 13 Overseer; 16 Thrace; 17 Memory; 18 Disc; 20 Door. **QUICK SOLUTIONS 376:** Across: 7 Current events; 8 Suppress; 9 Dupe; 10 Obeyed; 12 Arrest; 14 Crisis; 16 Enrobe; 18 Asia; 20 Ecstatic; 22 By word of mouth. Down: 1 Cucumber; 2 Trophy; 3 Once; 4 Persuade; 5 Tender; 6 Stop; 11 Descends; 13 Sobriety; 15 Season; 17 Reason; 19 Stye; 21 Safe.

• The winner of the last crossword (no 375) is Clare Powis, Chestfield

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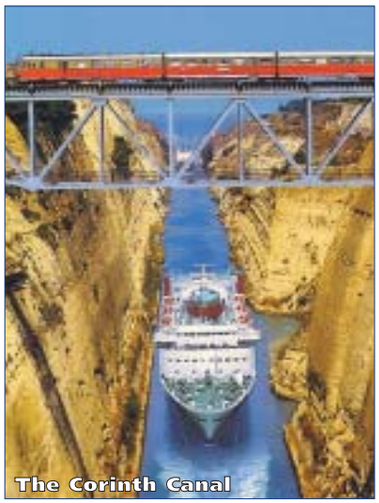
* T&C Discount based on deposit being paid on 7th March 2010 - minimum 50 guests.



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Champagne Check-in

Escorted Rail-Cruise - afternoon departure from London


The Corinth Canal


The Coral

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Cruise **GC-KOS**

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- **Overnight stay in Paris outbound**
- **10 night Full Board cruise on the Louis Coral**
- **Overnight stay in Marseilles on the return**
- **All transfers abroad**

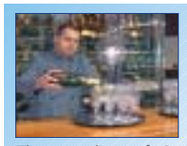
Join us for a rail-cruise holiday that certainly ticks a lot of boxes - on our journey to the south of France we experience the thrill of European rail travel at its best before cruising to some of the world's must-see destinations on board the Louis Coral. Accommodating up to 900 guests, the Coral is perfectly sized for a relaxed and intimate style of cruising, and of course small enough to navigate the incredible Corinth Canal.

We enjoy an overnight stay in the French capital before joining the TGV train to Marseilles – the journey time is less than 3 hours. In Marseilles we have a short coach transfer to the Coral and the start of our 10 night cruise to remarkable sights and cities and a wide choice of optional shore excursions.

At the end of the cruise we disembark in Marseilles and enjoy an overnight stay in France's most cosmopolitan port city before taking the TGV to Lille and Eurostar to London, arriving early-to-mid-evening.

Prices: May & June from £1,179pp; July & September from £1,199pp

Note: June 15 departure overnights in Lille outbound


The grandeur of St Pancras' famous Champagne Bar is the perfect place to begin our odyssey with a glass of bubbly, before an escorted afternoon departure by Eurostar to Paris.


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Our Italian and French Odyssey begins with a **Champagne check-in** at St Pancras' famous Champagne Bar before an escorted **afternoon departure** on Eurostar to Paris, where we stay overnight in a hotel. The next morning we join the TGV train to Nice, then continue by coach to our hotel in the Italian seaside resort of Marina di Pietrasanta, near Pisa. We stay at the Hotel San Siro - with nightly free bar. Included excursions take in **Florence, Lucca, Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa & Portovenere**, to which we travel by boat. You will also have the opportunity to visit the **Cinque Terre** coastal villages. The return journey is also via Nice, where we have some time to explore and a night in a hotel, then travel by TGV train to Lille and Eurostar to London.

INCLUDED: Champagne check-in • Escorted throughout • Return Eurostar & TGV train travel • 1 night in Paris outbound • 1 night in Nice with dinner on homeward journey • 7 nights at the Hotel San Siro with 7 dinners, 7 breakfasts & free drinks each night at the hotel • Excursions as stated • All transfers abroad

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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights with Easyjet from Stansted to Ljubljana • 4 nights at the Jelovica Hotel, Lake Bled • 3 nights at the Histrion Hotel, Portoroz • 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners • Included excursions & all transfers

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TUE 16 & WED 17 MAR



FRI 19 & SAT 20 MAR



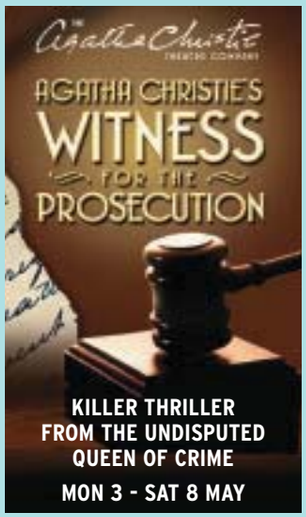
TUE 23 MAR - SAT 10 APR



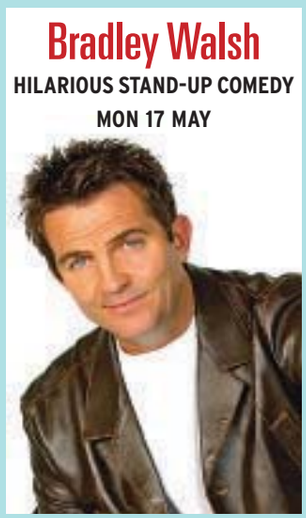
TUE 20 - SAT 24 APR



TUE 27 APR - SUN 2 MAY



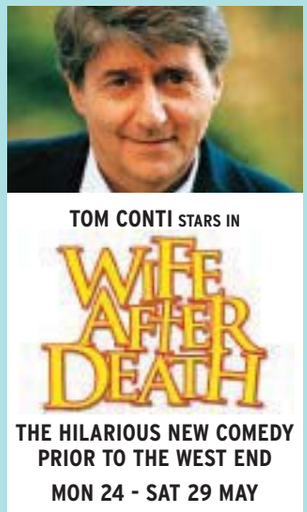
MON 3 - SAT 8 MAY



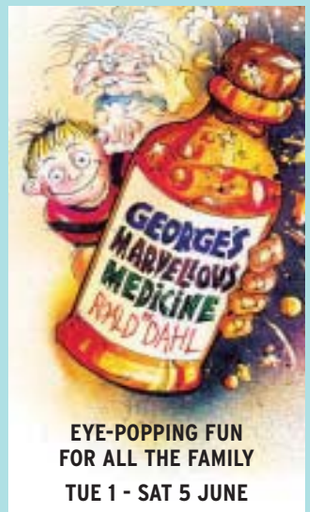
MON 17 MAY



WED 19 - SUN 23 MAY



MON 24 - SAT 29 MAY



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Jacques Vert is proud to reveal its new collection for the Spring/Summer 2010 season, taking the stress and strain out of shopping for that show-stopping ensemble this season. The collection is led by smart, feminine and flattering occasion wear, all tailored to coordinate with weddings, social functions and elegant occasions in mind.

As ever, the collection moves through a spectrum of colours. There is an array of capsule ranges in colours to suit every figure and skin tone, and of course each outfit is accompanied by perfectly coordinating accessories in matching hues and patterns. Dusky pink and coco, lime and deep navy blue, lilac and cream and pearl and nickel collaborations will fit any theme, and capsules to appear for high summer feature clean white, cornflower and royal blue with crisp white capri trousers and soft chiffon layering to accompany key pieces.

Each capsule is supported by a line of colour-coordinated accessories, adding a touch of glamour to the outfit. This seasons' headwear is fabulous, ranging from hats with wide, decadent brims and trims to more subtle yet chic fascinators available to match each collection. Shoes come in both leather and cooler coordinating fabric for summer occasions, elegant yet practical with kitten heels and comfortable slingback straps, and perfectly sized clutch purses and evening bags complete the ensemble.

For a striking day look to suit that high summer cruise, garden party or afternoon lunching with the girls, Jacques Vert has designed a range of aquamarine and warm white garments including cardigans, blouses and a butterfly print maxi dress to create a relaxed yet stylish look.

Jacques Vert has been tailoring to the discerning woman since 1972, with heritage as the brand of choice for weddings, christenings and elegant occasions.

Jacques Vert is available in department stores across the UK and Ireland and online.



To be in with a chance of winning **£500** to spend at Jacques Vert simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to **Jacques Vert Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR** The closing date is 10th March, 2010.

QUESTION: What year did Jacques Vert start to design ladies fashion?

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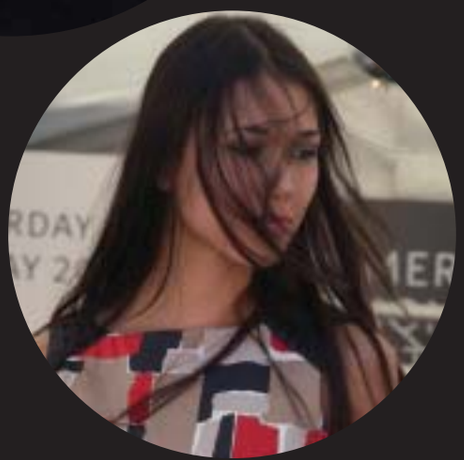
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WHITEFRIARS
Canterbury

Sassy *spring*

Seasonal style advice from Whitefriars fashion writer Laura Jones

With over 100 top fashion brands in the Whitefriars shopping district alone, you'll be spoilt for choice this spring in Canterbury. Find out more at whitefriars-canterbury.co.uk.

New Nudes

After a chilly winter, spring has sprung and the new selections of styles are fresh and exciting! For spring 2010 mix up earth tones with pale pastels or opt for primary colours like red and blue. Neutrals should incorporate floral patterns, pretty girly accessories and plenty of ruffles!



Hobbs £299

Avoid wearing necklaces with this Collybrooke dress to draw attention to its beautiful shoulder detail.



Bhs £20

Bhs has a great selection of bags this season. Nab yours now!



Monsoon £55

A classic pair of black heels is essential for every fashion forwards woman!

Wear this coat over the top of any skimpy evening dresses to stay stylish and warm!



Jane Norman £80



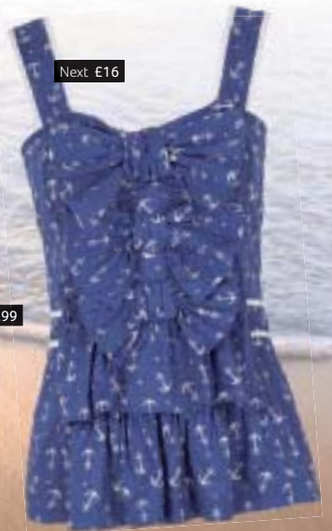
Wallis at Fenwick £18

If it's a super-glam look you're going for then opt for drop earrings or, for a simpler outfit, choose a stud style.



Freedom at Topshop £8

A cute combo of bows and anchors, this Next top is a must-have!



Next £16

British Seaside

A mix of bold detailing and bright colours define this look. Mix it up with plenty of stripes and anchor patterns and get ready for summer with cute cotton and ribbon materials.



River Island £29.99

A tunic dress can be worn with grey tights or knee-high socks until you dare to bare your legs!



Republic £24.99

Cardigans with piping detail are hot, hot, hot right now. So this is perfect!



Miss Selfridge £45

When spring rain showers stop, don these super wedges to welcome in summer!

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Ophelia £149



Classic Summer jacket from REISS £179

FRENCH CONNECTION pick of the range pretty in pink



Bluewater

www.bluewater.co.uk

Your personal wardrobe overhaul

Winter seems to have dragged on, but the Bluewater shopping centre at Greenhithe is full of the delights of Spring with a fabulous selection of the seasons leading fashion & lifestyle brands to choose from.

If you are in need of a Spring wardrobe overhaul, why not try a session with the Bluewater personal stylist. RRP £140.00. This consists of two hours with Anna Moore from The Style Clinic who will provide a one to one consultation with expert styling and advice.

Bluewater boasts 330 stores, 50 bars & restaurants, 13,000 free car parking spaces & an excellent range of family entertainment.

John Lewis fashion year

This season sees John Lewis partner with a number of fantastic designers including Joe Casely Hayford and Celia Birtwell to name a few. Great new brand Damsel in a Dress, brainchild of Alison Mansell who designed the sam cam polka dot dress, is now also being sold exclusively at John Lewis. An exciting year for John Lewis so far, 2010 is set to be a great year for fashion.

Full of colours & lots of fun!

French Connection Spring/Summer 2010 is full of colour, shine and all things fine. It's a tale of two style tribes – 50's teen rockabilly's hop amongst punks from the 80's, the clash is evident on proportions and tailoring both given a new 50's slant with graphic florals creating a softer, vintage backdrop.

The collection sits like a back-to-school pencil case full of Caran d`Ache coloured hues – everything fresh and exciting ready for its first outing. The mix of casual to formal pieces is even, endorsing the freedom of creating an individual style that works for you, creating a juxtaposition of clean cut lines.

Stylish men at French Connection

The French Connection man steps in to Spring with two diverse collections. French Connection's mainline collection provides sophisticated fashion-forward looks with quality fabrics, unique detailing and signature design twists. FCUK provides denim-led streetwear apparel for a casual look, focusing on individuality and embracing unconventional style.

Fun & function for kids

French Connection's bright and modern kidswear designs have fun and function all wrapped up in one stylish collection.

When girls step in to summer they're pretty in pink. A fuchsia pink georgette shift dress with sequin embellishment gives just the right amount of razzle dazzle.

Little boy soldiers march in to the season in camouflage shorts and khaki army style chunky knit cardigans with fluoro green flashes on tees and sweats to give a brighter edge.

French Connection baby presents its first summer collection full of bright colour bursts on loose cotton pieces. Our pick of the range are the roomy smock tops with matching frilly pants.

Hot new accessory of the season

The latest collection from luxury jewellery brand Carat combines design and desirability with high fashion. Best sellers from the new Spring/Summer 2010 range are the unique selection of Stack rings - the new hot accessory of the season! Available in an array of colourful Carat gem stones with gold and sterling silver finishes including black, white, champagne and pink. Match into a wide range of unique combinations and styles to add a dash of individuality to any outfit. Prices range between £60-£200 per ring.



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Accountancy

Experienced PAYE Administrator
Dartford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Riddingtons & Riddingtons Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mike@riddingtons.co.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary: TBC
Closing Date: 12/04/10
To apply/more information: Practice Manager Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary: negotiable
Closing Date: 12/04/10
To apply/more information: Practice Manager Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: cust 001
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Assistant to the Parish Clerk
Folkestone
Salary: £16,054 - £18,453 pro rata
Closing Date: Friday 19 March 2010
To apply/more information: Hawkinge Parish Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Clerk@hawkingepc.org.uk

PA/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Kent
Salary: £19,000 per year
To apply/more information: Redstar Fire & Secutiry
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email admin@redstarfireandsecurity.com

Service Receptionist
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Wilmoths
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email service@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk

Vehicle Sales Administrator
Welling
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: W J King
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email careers@wjking.com

Veterinary Nurse/ Receptionist
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Ralph Chamber & Associates
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 239335
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Kitchen Assistant
Maidstone
Salary: £14,588- £16,638 pro-rata
Closing Date: Friday 5 March 2010
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0049
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Part Time Cook
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Birchwood House Rest Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 863559
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Child Care

Registered Manager
London
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 1st March 2010
To apply/more information: Boulters, The
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 845810
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Dance and Sports activities After School Club sessions
Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 5th March 2010
To apply/more information: Kent Play Clubs
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 713813
Email info@kentplayclubs.org.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

CARPENTER
Hythe
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Charlier Construction
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 268211
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

LABOURER
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Pembury Group
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01480 474400
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic

OFFICE CLEANERS - Stourmouth
Kent
Salary: £12pw
OFFICE CLEANERS NEEDED
To apply/more information: Minster Cleaning Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 882492
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

OFFICE CLEANERS - Barham
Kent
Salary: £30pw
OFFICE CLEANERS NEEDED
To apply/more information: Minster Cleaning Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 882492
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

TEMPORARY TEACHER FOR PUPILS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
Medway
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 5th March 2010
To apply/more information: Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 338236
Email tayll036@medway.org.uk

CLERICAL OFFICER
Medway
Salary: £15,039 - £19,126 (pro rata)
Closing Date: 5th March 2010
To apply/more information: Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 338236
Email tayll036@medway.org.uk

Scieence Graduate Teacher
Rochester
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday, 5th March
To apply/more information: Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 844008
Email harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

TEACHER OF ENGINEERING (MPS)
Thanet
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday, 5th March
To apply/more information: Walmer Science College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 375212
Email admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk

TEACHER OF SCICENCE(MPS)
Thanet
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday, 5th March
To apply/more information: Walmer Science College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 375212
Email admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk

Lecturer in Electrical/Electronic ngineering
Medway
Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 5 March
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0678
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Civil Engineering
Medway
Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 5 March
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0333
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering
Medway
Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 5 March
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0219
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

PHILLIPS CONTRACTS LIMITED
Company Number 05364694

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, on Wednesday 24 March 2010 at 12.00 noon for the purpose provided for in Section 98 et seq. of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Ian Yerrill, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Busines Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH will, during the period before the date of the Meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they reasonably require.
Dated 20 February 2010
Christopher Phillips, Director

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT 1991

Licence to use a premises as an establishment for special treatment. Take notice that I, Adam Wood being the occupier/owner of the undermentioned premises have applied to the Council of the London Borough of Bromley for the Licensing of 4A Manor Road, Beckenham, BR3 5LE under the above Act as an establishment for Special Treatment. The nature of the Special Treatments to be offered are: Acupuncture and Tui Na (Chinese Massage). Any person wishing to object to the application should do so by giving notice in writing stating the grounds of objection to the Chief Environmental Health Officer, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 3UH, within 21 days. Persons objecting to the application should be prepared to attend in person at a public hearing before a Committee of the Council.

To advertise in this section
✆ 01303 817040

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00139/FL & TM/10/00027/LB – 122 Wateringbury Road East Malling West Malling ME19 6JD – Mathew Davis is applying for change of use of agricultural land to residential use, erection of agricultural fencing, erection of oak framed garage, vehicular crossover, driveway and gates. Reason: LB

TM/10/00288/FL – Leybourne Wood Seven Mile Lane Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8QY – Mr John Bailey is applying for proposed detached outbuilding/storage building to side of dwelling (resubmission of TM/09/00351/FL). Reason: DEPART HH

(A) TM/10/00269/FLX & (B) TM/10/00270/LBX – Manor Farm 108 Old Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PP – Mr And Mrs M English are applying for renewal of planning permission ref. (A) TM/05/01873/FL (renewal of planning permission ref. TM/01/00119/FL (change of use to residential with access from Old Road) & (B) TM/05/01874/LB (renewal of Listed Building consent ref. TM/01/00118/LB (removal of windows and staircase, new windows, staircase and doors on elevations, demolition of walls and subsequent new walls, new internal doors, roof timbers and flue (C/U of Bldg. G to res)). Reason: CA LB

TM/10/00319/FL – Plot 1 Little Mount The Street Plaxtol Sevenoaks Kent – Mr T Groom is applying for detached two car parking barn to frontage of plot 1. Reason: CA

TM/10/00294/FL – Court Lodge Plaxdale Green Road Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7PG – Mr Harry Bott is applying for partial change of use of barn for up to 14 events and functions per year, in addition to continued use as ancillary residential amenity and agricultural farm storage. Reason: CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HH	Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 21 March 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

28 February 2010



...Jobs for Kent continued from page 36

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

CHURCH ROAD, WAREHORNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of cabling for the installation of a new electricity supply and carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Road, Warehorne, on or after 1 March 2010 for an estimated period of 14 working days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between Bridge Farm and Terry House. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of B2067 Warehorne Road and Hogg Lane. The alternative route will be via Church Road, B2067 Kenardington Road, Appledore Road, Church Lane, Firs Lane, Hogg Lane and Arrowhead Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Canterbury from as described in the schedule to this order on 01 March 2010 for an estimated period of as described in the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described below.

Road Name: Long Meadow Way, Canterbury
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: 01 to 04 March 2010
Diversion: Tenterden Drive

Road Name: Bawden Close, Canterbury
Extent: Junction with Long Meadow Way
Dates: 01 to 04 March 2010
Diversion: Tenterden Drive, Farleigh Road and Headcorn Drive

Road Name: Greenhill Road, Herne Bay
Extent: Poplar Drive to Kingfisher Court
Dates: 11 to 16 March 2010
Diversion: Bullockstone Road, Owls Hatch Road, Thornden Wood Road and Greenhill Road West

Road Name: Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay
Extent: Kingfisher Court to Bridle Way
Dates: 11 to 16 March 2010
Diversion: Bullockstone Road, Owls Hatch Road, Thornden Wood Road and Greenhill Road West

Road Name: Chestnut Drive, Herne Bay
Extent: Junction with Green Hill Road
Dates: 11 to 16 March 2010
Diversion: Poplar Drive

Road Name: Mill Road, Sturry
Extent: Fordwich Road to Forge Close
Dates: 17 to 19 March 2010
Diversion: Vehicles over 7.5 Tons will be diverted via A291, A299, A290, London Road, Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road and Sturry Road. Light vehicles and buses will be diverted via Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road

Road Name: Fordwich Road, Sturry
Extent: Junction with Mill Road
Dates: 17 to 19 March 2010
Diversion: Vehicles over 7.5 Tons will be diverted via A291, A299, A290, London Road, Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Water Lane
Light vehicles and buses will be diverted via Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road, Mill Road and Water Lane

Road Name: High Street, Sturry
Extent: Junction with Mill Road
Dates: 17 to 19 March 2010
Diversion: Vehicles over 7.5 Tons will be diverted via A291, A299, A290, London Road, Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road and Sturry Road, Mill Road and High Street
Light vehicles and buses will be diverted via Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road, Mill Road and High Street

Road Name: High Street
Extent: The County Council of Kent (High Street, Sturry) (One-Way) order, 1967 is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order

This order will come into force on Monday 01 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Canterbury from as described in the schedule to this order on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of as described below or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be named below

Road Name: Cockering Road
Extent: Strangers Lane to Milton Manor Road
Dates: Between 15 and 18 March 2010 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Strangers Lane, A28 Ashford Road, Milton Manor Road

Road Name: Ford Hills, Herne Bay
Extent: A299 Slip Road to Margate Road
Dates: Between 18 and 19 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Northbound: Margate Road, Thanet Way bridge, Thanet Way, Sweechbridge Road Southbound: A299 Slip Road, Thanet Way, Margate Road

Road Name: Cockering Road/ Milton Manor Road
Extent: A28 Ashford Road to The Crescent
Dates: Between 16 and 17 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: A28 Ashford Road, Shalmsford Street

This order will come into force on Monday 15 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HERNE BAY 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 20 mph speed limit in Herne Bay on the following roads or parts of road:

St Georges Terrace
Sea View Square
Charles Street
Prospect Hill
North Street
East Street
Beach Street
Dolphin Street
Pier Avenue
Lane End
Mortimer Street
Market Street
Chapel Street
Tower Gardens
William Street
Bank Street
Richmond Street
Station Road
Oxenden Street

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way.

Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 22 March 2010.

ADMIRALTY WALK, WHITSTABLE PROHIBITION OF DRIVING TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Admiralty Walk, Whitstable from its junction with Joy Lane to its junction with Fairway Crescent on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of 12 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Joy Lane, Faversham Road, St Marys Grove, Bowyer Road and Preston Parade

OLD TREE ROAD, HOATH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Old Tree Road, Hoath, on or after 15 March 2010, for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Maypole Lane and Mill Road. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Maypole Lane, School Lane and Mill Road.

SHALLOAK ROAD, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shalloak Road, Sturry, on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of one night or until the works are complete. The works are planned to be carried out between the hours of 7.00 pm and 2.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Broad Oak Lodge Farm. There is no access for through traffic between the junctions of Vauxhall Road and Sweechgate. The alternative route will be via Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road, Mill Road, Sturry Hill and Sweechgate.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name: Beacon Drive, Bean
Extent: Between its junctions with High Street and School Lane.
Date: 3rd March 2010 for 6 days.
Diversion: High Street and School Lane.
Purpose: Thin surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe
Extent: Between its junctions with Stanhope Road and Sun Road.
Date: 31st March 2010 for 2 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Stanhope Road, Milton Road, Milton Street and Manor Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: St Johns Road, Stone
Extent: From its junction with London Road.
Date: 1st April 2010 for 4 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: St Johns Road, London Road, The Brent, Watling Street and Hill House Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Cotton Lane, Stone
Extent: Between its junctions with Bow Arrow Lane and London Road.
Date: 1st April 2010 for 4 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Crossways Boulevard, St Clements Way and London Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Green Street Green Road, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Gore Road and Princes Road.
Date: 6th April 2010 for 7 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Darenth Hill, Parsonage Lane, Hawley Road, Lowfield Street and Princes Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Market Street, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Overy Street and Lowfield Street.
Date: 13th April 2010 for 3 nights between 20.00 – 05.00 hours.
Diversion: Home Gardens, Westgate Road, Highfield Road, West Hill, Shepherds Lane, Princes Road and Lowfield Street.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Longfield Road, Longfield
Extent: From Nurstead Lane to the Railway Bridge.
Date: 15th April 2010 for 3 nights between 19:00 – 00:00 hours.
Diversion: A227 Wrotham Road, A2, New Barn Road and Main Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Cross Road, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Wellington Road and Marlborough Road.
Date: 28th April 2010 for 4 days 09:00 – 15:00 hours.
Diversion: Dartford Road, Shepherds Lane and Christchurch Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Marlborough Road, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Dartford Road and Cross Road.
Date: 28th April 2010 for 4 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Dartford Road, Shepherds Lane and Christchurch Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Galley Hill Road, Swanscombe
Extent: Between its junctions with High Street and Lower Road.
Date: 30th April 2010 for 5 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Thames Way, Springhead Road, Hall Road, A2, Bean Road, St Clements Way and London Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Tower Road, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Miskin Road and West Hill.
Date: 4th May 2010 for 3 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Miskin Road, Shepherds Lane and West Hill.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Lowfield Street, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Princes Road and Walnut Tree Avenue.
Date: 6th May 2010 for 5 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Oakfield Lane, Heath Lane Upper and Princes Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

HONEYWOOD ROAD AND HONEYWOOD PARKWAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Honeywood Road and Honeywood Parkway between the Whitfield Roundabout and Tesco Superstore on or after 1 March 2010 for an estimated period of twelve nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be in various phases as signed on site.

This order will come into force on Monday 1 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

CHURCH PATH, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of new electrical supply works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Path, Deal between the junctions of The Grove and Cowper Road on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Cowper Road, London Road and The Grove.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name: Waterdales, Northfleet
Extent: Between its junctions with Springhead Road and Waterdale Shops.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 4 days.
Diversion: Vale Road, Thames Way and Springhead Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Villa Road, Higham
Extent: From its junction with Gravesend Road and Forge Lane.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Forge Lane.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme on Gravesend Road.

Road Name: Villa Road, Higham
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days
Purpose: Prohibit Right Turn from Villa Road into Forge Lane

Road Name: Telegraph Hill, Higham
Extent: Between its junctions with Gravesend Road and Hermitage Lane.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Hermitage Lane and Forge Lane.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme on Gravesend Road.

Road Name: Pear Tree Lane, Higham
Extent: Between its junctions with Gravesend Road and Tanyard Hill.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Tanyard Hill, The Street and Forge lane.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme on Gravesend Road.

Road Name: Wainscott ByPass, Higham
Extent: From its junction with Halsted Road.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Exit the next available slip road, Lower Rochester Road, enter back onto Wainscott ByPass London Bound to the Higham Exit.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: Leith Park Road, Gravesend
Extent: Between its junctions with Parrock Road to Windmill Street.
Date: 9th March 2010 for 3 days.
Diversion: Parrock Road, Old Road East and Windmill Street.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Road Name: **Brice Road, Higham**
Extent: Between its junctions with Villa Road and Forge Lane.
Date: 25th March 2010 for 2 days.
Diversion: Forge Lane, Gravesend Road and Villa Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Dorset Crescent, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Cerne Road and St Francis Avenue.
Date: 26th March 2010 for 2 days.
Diversion: St Francis Avenue and Cerne Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Old Road East (Echo Square Roundabout), Gravesend**
Extent: Echo Square Rounabout from its junction with Old Road East, Sun lane, Cross Lane East, Parrock Road and Whitehill Road.
Date: 19th April 2010 for 3 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: From Parrock Road – Parrock Road, Parrock Street, Lord Street and Windmill Street.
From Whitehill Road – Whitehill Lane and Valley Drive.
From Cross Lane East – Singlewell Road, Hever Court Road and Valley Drive.
From Sun Lane – Whitehill Road, Whitehill Lane and Valley Drive.
From Olde Road East – Rochester Road, East Milton Road, Milton Road, Parrock Street, Lord Street and Windmill Street.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Wrotham Road, Meopham**
Extent: Between its junctions with Meadfield Road and Shipley Hills Road.
Date: 22nd April 2010 for 3 nights 19.00 – 00.00hours.
Diversion: Longfield Road, Main Road, Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage Lane, Main Road, Dartford Road, A20 Main Road, Gorse Hill, London Road and Gravesend Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Wrotham Road, Istead Rise**
Extent: Between its junctions with No.301 and Lewis Road.
Date: 22nd April 2010 for 5 nights 19.00 - 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Longfield Road, New Barn Road, Hall Road and The A2.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Parrock Street, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Wellington Street to Lord Street.
Date: 23rd April 2010 for 4 days 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Lord Street, Windmill Street, Old Road East and Parrock Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Whitehill Lane, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Truro Road and Whitehill Parade.
Date: 26th April 2010 for 4 days 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Valley Drive, Old Road East and Whitehill Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic and introducing a one way restriction on various roads, Gravesend as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to take place during a 12 week period. These restrictions will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name: **Sun Lane**
Extent: Northbound only one way restriction between Sharland Road to Echo Square Roundabout
Diversion: Whitehill Road, Whitehill Lane, Christian Fields Avenue, Ash Road and Kitchener Avenue.

Road Name: **Portland Avenue**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane and then at its junction with Central Avenue. (Not simultaneously)
Diversion: Sun Lane - Central Avenue and Cross Lane East
Central Avenue – Sun Lane and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Ferndale Road**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane and then at its junction with Central Avenue. (Not simultaneously)
Diversion: Sun Lane - Central Avenue and Cross Lane East
Central Avenue – Sun Lane and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Malvina Avenue**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane
Diversion: Central Avenue and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Smarts Road**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane
Diversion: Central Avenue and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Devonshire Road**
Extent: Northbound only one way restriction between Cross Lane East to Old Road East
Diversion: Singlewell Road and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Old Road East**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Devonshire Road
Diversion: Singlewell Road and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Singlewell Road**
Extent: Southbound only one way restriction between Old Road East to Cross Lane
Diversion: Cross Lane West, New House Lane, Dashwood Road and Old Road West

Road Name: **Sun Lane**
Extent: Northbound only one way restriction from Kitchener Avenue to Sharland Road
Diversion: Whitehill Road, Whitehill Lane, Christian Fields Avenue, Ash Road and Kitchener Avenue.

The purpose of restrictions is to facilitate replacement of gas mains.

Please Note: Access will be maintained for all residents, businesses and their visitors as much as possible during the works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

A25 MAIN ROAD, SUNDRIDGE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A25 Main Road, Sundridge from its junction with Chevening Road 220 meters east to outside Lamb Inn.

A 7.5T weight limit (except for access) will be in place on B2211 Chevening Road, Ovenden Road and Sundridge Road from the junction with A25 Main Road Sundridge to A224 Morants Court Road Dunton Green.

A 24hour no parking order from the junction A25 Main Road Sundridge to Combe Bank Drive will also be in place.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

HGV:
A25 Brasted Road Westerham, A233 Beggars Lane Westerham, London Road Westerham, Westerham Hill Westerham, Main Road Biggin Hill, Leaves Green Road Biggin Hill, Westerham Road Leaves Green, Westerham Road Keston, A232 Croydon Road Keston, A21 Farnborough Common Farnborough, Farnborough Way Green Street Green, Sevenoaks Road Pratt's Bottom, A224 Orpington By-pass Badgers Mount, London Road Halstead, Polhill Halstead, Morants Court Road Dunton Green, London Road Dunton Green, The Square Riverhead, rejoin A25 Maidstone Road, Worships Hill Riverhead, Westerham Road Bessels Green, Main Road Sundridge.

Light Vehicles:
B2211 Chevening Road Sundridge, Ovenden Road Chevening, Sundridge Road Dunton Green, A224 Morants Court Road Dunton Green, London Road Dunton Green, The Square Riverhead, rejoin A25 Maidstone Road, Worships Hill Riverhead, Westerham Road Bessels Green, Main Road Sundridge.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas mains renewal.

KNOCKHOLT ROAD, HALSTEAD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Knockholt Road, Halstead near Cherrywood in various locations.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 7th March 2010 and 14th March 2010. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Otford lane, Polhill, Star Hill Road, Old London Road and Harrow Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate soak away cleansing and drainage surveys.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Swale as described in the schedule to this order on or after 6 March 2010 for an estimated period of as described below or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be named below.

Road Name: **Abbots Road**
Extent: From its junction with Arden Road to its junction with Millfield
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Arden Road and Millfield

Road Name: **Cole Road**
Extent: From its junction with Abbey Fields to its junction with Arden Road
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: No alternative route available

Road Name: **Arden Road**
Extent: From its junction with Millfield to its merger with Abbots Field
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Millfield, Cluny Road and Abbots Road

Road Name: **Millfield Road**
Extent: Whole length
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: No alternative route available

Road Name: **Cluny Road**
Extent: From its junction with Millfield Road to its junction with Abbots Road
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Millfield Road, Cheney Road and Abbots Road

Road Name: **Cheney Road**
Extent: From its junction with Abbots Road to a point 25metres south of its junction with Millfield Road
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Millfield Road, Cluny Road and Abbots Road

This order will come into force on Saturday 06 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

HERESON ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway improvement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hereson Road, Ramsgate from Thanet Road to Victoria Road on or after 01 March 2010 for an estimated period of four weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Montefiore Avenue, Dumpton Park Drive and Victoria Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 01 March 2010, will be in operation when appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

COTTINGTON ROAD, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works in connection with the construction of a new road and the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Cottington Road, Minster on or after 3 March 2010 for an estimated period of 7 working days or until the works are complete.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

The road will be closed to through traffic between the junctions of Ebbsfleet Lane and Foads Lane The alternative route will be eastbound via Ebbsfleet Lane, A256 Sandwich Road, Cliifsend Road and Foads Lane; westbound via Foads Hill, A299 Canterbury Road East and Thorne Hill.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 28) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) at the junctions of the following roads:-

Molineux Road at the junction with Domneva Road and St Mary's Road;

St Mary's Road both sides at the bend near to No 4a St Mary's Road, at the junction with Taylor Road and the junction with Domneva Road

Taylor Road at the junctions with St Mary's Road and Monkton Road

Monkton Road on the northern side from the junction with Tothill Street to outside No 9 Monkton Road.

Tothill Street outside No 2 Tothill Street.

Thorne Street at the junctions with Taylor Road and Domnerva Road.

It is also proposed to introduce no waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday (single yellow lines on the west side of Taylor Road from a point 18 metres South of the junction with Monkton Road for a distance of 50 metres South of that point.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate and Minster Public Library, 4A Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.thanet.canterbury@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 22 March 2010.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 29) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road:-

Upper Dane Road:
(a) On the south west side between points 10 metres north east and 10 metres south west of the junction with Olave Road;

(b) on the north east side between points 10 metres south east and 10 metres north west of the junction with Victoria Road; from a point 10 metres south east of the junction with Alfred Road to a point opposite a point with the common boundary of Nos 48 and 50 Upper Dane Road;

Victoria Road: On both sides from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction

Hastings Avenue: On the north east side between points 10 metres north east and 10 metres south west of the junction with Olave Road;

Alfred Road: On both sides from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction;

Olave Road: On both sides -
(a) from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a south westerly direction;

(b) from the junction with Hastings Avenue for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 22 March 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Districts of Thanet, Canterbury and Swale

A299 THANET WAY (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS & PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs and maintenance, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on A299 Thanet Way on or after 11 March 2010 for an estimated period of three the weeks or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is:

a) To impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on both carriageways of the A299 Thanet Way, between St. Nicholas Roundabout and Brenley Corner, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

b) To prohibit traffic on the following off-slips of the A299 Thanet Way, as and when the relevant signs and barriers are displayed on site.

Wantsum Way, St Nicholas at Wade:
From 11 March 2010 for 3 days.
Alternative route via A299 Thanet Way London bound, North Stream, Brook Lane, A299 Thanet Way coast bound, Chambers Wall and Court Road.

Wey Street Farm, Hernhill (coast bound slip road):
From 17 March 2010 for 3 days.
Alternative route via A299 Thanet Way Coast Bound, Highstreet Road, Thanet Way overbridge, A299 Thanet Way London bound, Fostall and Kemsdale Road.

Chambers Wall, St Nicholas at Wade:
28 March 2010 for 3 days.
Alternative route via A299 Thanet Way coast bound, St. Nicholas Roundabout, A299 Thanet Way London Bound, Wantsum Way, Court Road and Chambers Wall.

Thanet Way (Chislet) off-slip leading to Sweechbridge Road
30 March 2010 for 2 days.
A299 Thanet Way coast bound, Brook Lane, North Stream, A299 Thanet Way London bound, Heart in Hand Road and Sweechbridge Road.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

COMP LANE JUNCTION WITH POTASH LANE & WINDMILL HILL, PLATT (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Comp Lane at the junction with Potash Lane on or after Monday 1st March 2010 for 1 week and Windmill Hill outside Hurst Cottage on or after Monday 8th March 2010 for 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Comp Lane eastbound traffic is via Long Mill Lane, Potash Lane and for westbound traffic via Beechin Wood Lane, Potash Lane and for Windmill Hill via Comp Lane, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road, A25 Maidstone Road, Windmill Hill and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to renew a frame and cover in the highway. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Kenton Stewart of Carillion Telent on 01795 437805.

SOUTH ASH ROAD , STANSTED (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The South Ash Road ,Stansted on or after Friday 19th March 2010 for a period of up to 4 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is A20 London bound , A227 Gravesend Rd, A227 Wrotham Rd, A227 South St, A227 Wrotham Rd,B260 Longfield, B260 main road , Hartley, Ash Road , Chapel Wood Road, Ash Road The Street and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for carriageway surface dressing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Robert Seggie on 01622 798456.

STANSTED HILL, STANSTED & SWANTON ROAD, MEREWORTH (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stansted Hill outside the reservoir for 137m west on or after Tuesday 16th March 2010 for a period of up to 3 days and Swanton Road on or after Tuesday 30th March 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for Stansted Hill via Plaxdale Green Road, Tumblefield Road, Wrotham Hill Road, Platt House Lane, Vigo Road and for Swanton Road via Stan Lane, Mereworth Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to renew aerial cables and tree cutting. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Nicola Webb for Stansted Hill and Tracy Zeal for Swanton Road on 08700 500792.

ROUGHWAY LANE PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Roughway Lane Lyons Plaxtol from Rats Castle East to junction with The Hurst on or after Friday 19th March 2010 up to 4 Weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for Roughways Lane , Dunk Green, Hampton Road, Park Road, Gover Hill and The Hurst.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to construct retaining feature to prevent subsidence of carriageway. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Robert Seggie on 01622 882274.

HIGH STREET, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDERS AND NO RIGHT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Street, from Portman Park to Vale Road on or after Monday 15th March 2010 for a period of up to 9 nights between 20:00hrs and 06:00hrs or until such works are completed.

The one way orders on Avebury Avenue (Holford Street to River Lawn Road), Bradford Street, Riverwalk and New Wharf Road are temporarily suspended during the closure to allow for access as is the No Right Turn into Medway Wharf Road.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via B245 London Road, Dry Hill Park Road, Yardley Park Road, A26 Hadlow Road, A26 Cannon Lane, A26 Woodgate Way, A20104 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

LAKE ROAD AYLESFORD (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 and 124 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will extend the existing double yellow lines outside of the new development site on Lake Road, Aylesford.

A copy of the scheme proposal, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Aylesford Parish Council Offices, 23 Forstal Road, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7AU and at the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B0331500" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 22nd March 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

ASHURST HILL, ASHURST (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ashurst Hill at the railway bridge on or after Sunday 7th March 2010 between the hours of 22:00hrs and 04:00hrs for a period of up to 1 night or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the above restriction is via A264 Ashurst Road, B2110 Groombridge Hill, B2110 Withyham Road, B2026 Edenbridge Road, A264 Ashurst Road and vice versa.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to carry out a bridge inspection for structural and safety reasons. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contact is Emma Osborne of Centurion Traffic Management on 01634 717044.

HIGH WOODS LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Woods Lane between Halls Hole Road and Cleeve Avenue on or after Tuesday 16th March 2010 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

There is no alternative route for the restriction described above.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Tony Carreck on 08458 247 800.

UPPER CUMBERLAND WALK, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by pedestrian traffic on the footpath that runs between Cavendish Drive and Upper Cumberland Walk on or after Monday 15th March 2010 when required for a period of up to 12 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for the route described for pedestrians is via Cavendish Drive, Farmcombe Road, Claremont Road, Mount Sion, Madeira Park, Upper Cumberland Walk.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to lay a cable to provide a connection for Network Rail. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Howard Farmer on 01342 413632.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257
AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WBX17 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD TO CLANRICARDE ROAD AND WBX18 CHURCH ROAD TO WBX17) (NO 1) PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2010

On 24th February 2010 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council confirmed the above order.

The effect of the order is to stop up the public footpaths running from Mount Pleasant Road to Clanricarde Road (WBX17) and from Church Road to path WBX17 (WBX18) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the confirmed order and order map may be seen free of charge at Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday. Copies of the order and map may be obtained there free of charge.

The order comes into force on the date on which Tunbridge Wells Borough Council certify that the terms of Article 2 of the order have been complied with but if any person aggrieved by the order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of the purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 27th February 2010

Town and Country Planning Acts

Town and Country Planning ActsThe Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/00347/FULMJ **Benenden Girls School Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Demolition of Jubilee Building and existing extension on ground floor at north side of Leelands. New science building and courtyard; new terrace over new colonnade and accommodation to north of Leelands (MAJOR) (LB)

10/00367/FUL **Dolphin Cottage The Street, Benenden**
- (Part site) Erection of one detached dwelling and provision of parking and turning areas (CA) (LB)

10/00458/FUL **Med Spa Clinic 8 - 10 Vale Road, Culverden**
- Change of use from A1 retail to D1 clinic for treatment of allergies (CA)

10/00461/HOUSE **Rootes Cottage West Road, Goudhurst**
- Single storey rear extension (CA) (LB)

10/00463/LBC **Rootes Cottage West Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension (LB)

09/03504/HOUSE **Penrhyn Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing ground floor conservatory and construction of two-storey rear extension (CA)

10/00356/FUL **Little Mercers Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing dwelling and construct two pairs semi-detached dwellings comprising 2 x three-bed houses and 2 x two-bed houses with associated parking (LB) (CA)

10/00464/FUL **St Laurence Church The Moor, Hawkhurst**
- Re-roofing of Vestry in terne-coated stainless steel (LB) (CA)

10/00510/CAC **Belvedere Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of boundary wall which adjoins front of property (CA)

10/00515/LBC **Drum & Monkey House Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of two modern windows from kitchen, reinstatement of door in former structural opening, and replacement of one window with new oak window to match existing old windows (LB)

10/00371/LBC **Scotney Castle Hastings Road, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - New external lighting to mansion and to rear of visitor reception (LB)

10/00506/CAC **23 Warwick Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing dwelling (CA)

10/00332/HOUSE 5F **Sandrock Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Summer house (CA)

10/00448/FUL **Bonds Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst**
- Wendy House with associated steps and platform decking, single shed to replace two existing sheds in the same location, and a log store (LB)

10/00475/LBC **6 Bird In Hand Street Groombridge, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations and 2 no. conservation rooflights (works commenced) (LB)

09/03638/FUL **Beulah Lodge Rest Home 1 Beulah Road, St James**
- New parking and turning area to front of property with new access to highway (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 February 2010

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

At its meeting on 18 February 2010, the Council set the following council taxes for the year 2010/11:

Part of the Council's area:	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tonbridge	950.88	1,109.36	1,267.84	1,426.32	1,743.28	2,060.24	2,377.20	2,852.64
Addington	983.03	1,146.87	1,310.71	1,474.55	1,802.23	2,129.91	2,457.58	2,949.10
Aylesford	980.00	1,143.34	1,306.67	1,470.01	1,796.68	2,123.35	2,450.01	2,940.02
Birling	972.60	1,134.71	1,296.81	1,458.91	1,783.11	2,107.32	2,431.51	2,917.82
Borough Green	1,003.36	1,170.59	1,337.82	1,505.05	1,839.51	2,173.97	2,508.41	3,010.10
Burham	975.01	1,137.51	1,300.02	1,462.52	1,787.53	2,112.53	2,437.53	2,925.04
Ditton	1,025.46	1,196.38	1,367.29	1,538.20	1,880.02	2,221.85	2,563.66	3,076.40
East Malling & Larkfield	979.64	1,142.92	1,306.19	1,469.47	1,796.02	2,122.57	2,449.11	2,938.94
East Peckham	987.18	1,151.72	1,316.25	1,480.78	1,809.84	2,138.91	2,467.96	2,961.56
Hadlow	983.18	1,147.04	1,310.91	1,474.77	1,802.50	2,130.23	2,457.95	2,949.54
Hildenborough	960.07	1,120.08	1,280.10	1,440.11	1,760.14	2,080.16	2,400.18	2,880.22
Ightham	981.85	1,145.49	1,309.14	1,472.78	1,800.07	2,127.35	2,454.63	2,945.56
Kings Hill	980.24	1,143.61	1,306.99	1,470.36	1,797.11	2,123.86	2,450.60	2,940.72
Leybourne	992.53	1,157.95	1,323.38	1,488.80	1,819.65	2,150.49	2,481.33	2,977.60
Mereworth	965.02	1,125.85	1,286.69	1,447.53	1,769.21	2,090.88	2,412.55	2,895.06
Offham	978.17	1,141.20	1,304.23	1,467.26	1,793.32	2,119.38	2,445.43	2,934.52
Platt	979.94	1,143.26	1,306.59	1,469.91	1,796.56	2,123.21	2,449.85	2,939.82
Plaxtol	972.64	1,134.74	1,296.85	1,458.96	1,783.18	2,107.39	2,431.60	2,917.92
Ryarsh	984.26	1,148.30	1,312.35	1,476.39	1,804.48	2,132.57	2,460.65	2,952.78
Shipbourne	973.96	1,136.29	1,298.62	1,460.95	1,785.61	2,110.27	2,434.91	2,921.90
Snodland	994.14	1,159.83	1,325.52	1,491.21	1,822.59	2,153.97	2,485.35	2,982.42
Stansted	991.12	1,156.31	1,321.50	1,486.69	1,817.07	2,147.45	2,477.81	2,973.38
Trottiscliffe	975.15	1,137.68	1,300.20	1,462.73	1,787.78	2,112.84	2,437.88	2,925.46
Wateringbury	991.10	1,156.29	1,321.47	1,486.66	1,817.03	2,147.40	2,477.76	2,973.32
West Malling	991.92	1,157.24	1,322.56	1,487.88	1,818.52	2,149.16	2,479.80	2,975.76
West Peckham	960.24	1,120.29	1,280.33	1,440.37	1,760.45	2,080.54	2,400.61	2,880.74
Wouldham	983.01	1,146.85	1,310.68	1,474.52	1,802.19	2,129.87	2,457.53	2,949.04
Wrotham	991.26	1,156.47	1,321.68	1,486.89	1,817.31	2,147.73	2,478.15	2,973.78

S. Shelton CPFA, Director of Finance

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Le Mini star in rival to the Italian Job

FirstDrive
by
STEVELOADER

Citroën DS3

NO PRIZES for guessing that Citroën's swanky new DS3 targets the BMW Mini.

And if the daring French marque pulls this one off, it will be a heist worthy of the original Mini's classic caper movie, the Italian Job.

The newcomer cuts a dash like the Mini, can be customised to the roof like one and holds a premium position to attract similar buyers.

But it's no Mini.

Firstly, it is definitely not retro, even if it does revive 'DS' sub-branding that graced a classic 50/60s dynasty of big Citroëns.

And secondly, while the DS3 opens up a posh new niche in the Citroën line-up – more smart DS models are on the way – the car and its customising boutique prices seem pitched carefully (from £11,700) to undercut the Anglo-German cult star (from £12,730), officially without discounts normally expected from Citroën dealers.

At the same time, 'Le Mini' also offers a big cabin, handsome boot and – dare we say it – a more butch image than the real Italian Job and that other great cult car of the moment, the Fiat 500.

The cabin is as much a work of art as the exterior, with a leather and alloy wheel on the mid-range test car worthy of an executive motor.

I think the DS has the style to blow away both its existing rivals: the front gives it 'big car' presence, but the clever part is how the roof appears to have been lifted from the rest of the car by using blacked out pillars.

We borrowed our First Drive car from Wilmoths Citroën in Ashford where sales manager James Tomlin called the trick "a floating roof" – a good description when you see the DS in a bold lower colour partnered with a light roof.

Many people are already bowled over by the car's style; Wilmoths Ashford had three firm orders even as the car made its showroom debut – a pattern reflected across Wilmoths' other Kent dealerships.

Hard-nosed buyers may doubt whether the DS can hold its values as well as the Mini – one of the slowest depreciators on the market. Holding the line on list prices and the array of custom configurations should help the DS3 though; there won't be any 'cheap' poverty-spec examples to 'lower the tone' of used values.

A more serious question is whether the DS delivers the driver enjoyment of the Mini; the loan car was a 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol equivalent to the mid-range Mini Cooper petrol and felt lively enough, but the gearshift and steering feedback was not as taut as its obvious rival.

And while the DS grips and corners well yet delivers a supple ride, you hear a lot from the suspension when working hard – a little more noise, vibration and harshness work would have helped the premium image.

Nevertheless, Le Mini is a fine piece of work – perhaps the French Job will hits our screens soon.

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06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES £9495
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07 57 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES £9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ULTRA BLUE15000 MILES £7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 2000MILES £8995
07 56 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £7995
07 56 CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES £7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE 5 DR AIR/C AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES £6495
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 24000 MILES £5495
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5DR STAR MAUVE 26000 MILES £5495
04 53 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 14000MILES £4995
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06 56 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 28000 MILES £5995
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06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 9000 MILES £9995
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07 57 GRAND VITARA 2-0 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £11995
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05 55 SUZUKI SWIFT 1-3 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 16000 MILES £7495
02 51 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2-0 DIESEL AUTO PAS SILVER 50000 MILES £4995

KIA

06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CON 21000 MILES £5995
06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CON 10000 MILES £5995

HONDA

06 56 HONDA CRV SE AUTO PAS SILVER GREY AIR 10000 MILES £11995
04 54 HONDA ACCORD 2-0 EXECUTIVE AUTO ESTATE 26000 MILES £7995

HYUNDAI

08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES £6995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 MILES £6495
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES £5995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES £5995
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER GREEN 7000 MILES £6995
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06 56 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 9000 MILES £5495
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 7000 MILES £5495
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES £5295

TOYOTA

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 MILES £9495
07 57 YARIS 1-3 ZINC 3 DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLACK UNDER 800 MILES £8995
07 57 AYGO 1-0 PLUS 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES £7495
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 6000 MILES £9995
06 06 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS SILVER 6000 MILES £8495
05 05 TOYOTA YARIS 1-0 T SPIRIT AUTO PAS ICE BLUE 17000 MILES £6995
04 04 COROLLA 1-6 T SPIRIT 3 5 DR AUTO AIR/C MET SILVER 24000 MILES £6995
02 02 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS SILVER 22000 MILES £5995

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08 08 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 9000 MILES £9495
08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 10000 MILES £8495
08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA + 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES £8995
08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA R 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK MET 2000 MILES £9995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES £8995
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06 56 NISSAN MICRA INITIA 1-2 3 DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 27000 MILES £5995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA + 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 6000 MILES £7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES £7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 23000 MILES £6995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS ICE BLUE 12000 MILES £6995
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES £6495
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 18000 MILES £6495

SKODA

08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES £9495
08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 5000 MILES £8995

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03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES £2995

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09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 900 MILES £7995
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06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 MILES £7995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES £9995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 10000 MILES £10995
05 05 VW POLO 1-4 TWIST 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 30000 MILES £6995

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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR 15000 MILES £7495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR TURQUOISE UNDER 300 MILES £8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR METRO BLUE 14000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 10000 MILES £7995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 40000 MILES £7995
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES £6495
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES £7995
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06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR HATCH PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 7000 MILES £6995
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06 55 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS HATCH SILVER 3000 MILES £7495
04 54 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR 5DR MOONSTONE 38000MILES £5995

ASTRA ESTATES

08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE BLUE 12000 MILES £8995
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES £8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES £8495

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07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES £7495
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08 08 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 2000 MILES £8995
07 57 RENAULT MODUS INITIALE 1-6 AUTO PAS LEATHER 9000 MILES £8995
07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 16000 MILES £7995
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01 51 A140 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS BLUEY 44000 MILES £4995
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08 57 PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM AUTO PAS 5DR AIR WHITE 7000 MILES £10995
08 57 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT AUTO PAS 5DR AIR MISTY GREY 23000 MILES £8995
07 57 PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C STORM GREY 2000 MILES £8495
07 57 PEUGEOT 307 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS DIABLO RED 17000MILES £7995
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06 06 CITROEN C1 RYTHM 1-0 5DR 5 SPD MANUAL SILVER 15000 MILES £5995
06 06 HYUNDAI GETZ 1-1 CDX PAS 5SPD AIR/C SEASIDE BLUE 45000 MILES £4995
05 55 CITROEN C3 1-4 SX 5 DR 5 SPEED PAS AIR DIABLO RED 15000 MILES £5495
04 04 PEUGET 206 1-4 SE 5 DR 5SPEED PAS AIR/C MOONSTONE 36000 MILES £4995
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08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 4000M £7495
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1900 MILES £7995
08 08 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS PACIFIC 2000 MILES £10995
08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES £6995
08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS 5 DR BLACK 8000 MILES £8995
07 57 PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C STORM GREY 2000 MILES £8495
08 57 FIESTA 1-4 GHIA 5DR 5 SPEED MANUAL BLUE AIR/C 2000 MILES £8995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 12000 MILES £7995
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Model shown is the Ibiza 5dr 1.4 Sport with optional metallic paint (£380 RRP). Offer applies to Ibiza 5dr 1.4 Sport only sold and registered between 1st January 2010 and 31st March 2010. Retail Sales only. The typical 0% APR offer is not available in conjunction with the Government Scrappage scheme or the SEAT customer loyalty offer. Subject to vehicle availability. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s only from participating dealers. SEAT Finance, Freepost SEAT Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Prices quoted and example shown is correct at time of going to print and reflects 17.5% VAT.

Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Ibiza 5dr range in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 33.6 (8.4) - 57.6 (4.9); extra-urban 56.5 (5.0) - 94.2 (3.0); combined 44.8 (6.3) - 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions 98 - 149 g/km.



Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): The All New Astra Range: urban – from 28.8 (9.9) to 49.6 (5.7), Extra-urban – from 50.4 (5.6) to 68.9 (4.1), Combined – from 39.8 (7.1) to 60.1 (4.7). CO_2 Emissions from 167 to 124g/km.

MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF 50% REQUIRED ON EXCLUSIV MODELS AND 30% ON ALL OTHER MODELS. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Offer available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks and apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 04.12.09 and 31.03.10, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Vaux87221)

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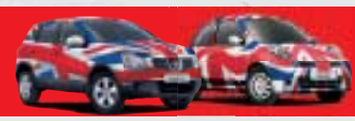
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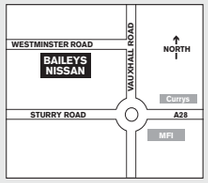
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The Government Scrappage Scheme is available until the Government funding is utilised or until 31/03/2010 (whichever is sooner). The Nissan British Built Trade in Scheme (NBBTS) is available until 31/03/2010. Trade in cars under the Government Scheme must have been registered on or before 29/02/2000 and under NBBTS between 01/03/2000 and 31/08/2002.The keeper of a trade in vehicle should have a UK address shown on the V5C and have been the registered keeper of the trade in vehicle for at least 12 calendar months before the order date of the new vehicle. Also a trade in vehicle must have a current MOT certificate at order date of the new vehicle and must be under 3.5 tonnes in weight. Under NBBTS there is no obligation to scrap any trade in vehicle and the new vehicle purchased must be a Nissan UK built vehicle (Micra, NOTE, QASHQAI and QASHQAI+2 only). Full Terms and Conditions apply (see your local Nissan dealership for details). Schemes available at participating Nissan dealers only. Schemes not available in conjunction with Motability or any other offers. Terms and Conditions subject to change without prior notice. Excludes Channel Islands / Isle of Man. Offer available at participating dealers only. NOTE and Micra shown have optional metallic paint at £400 including VAT. Images shown for illustration purposes only. Models subject to availability. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS.

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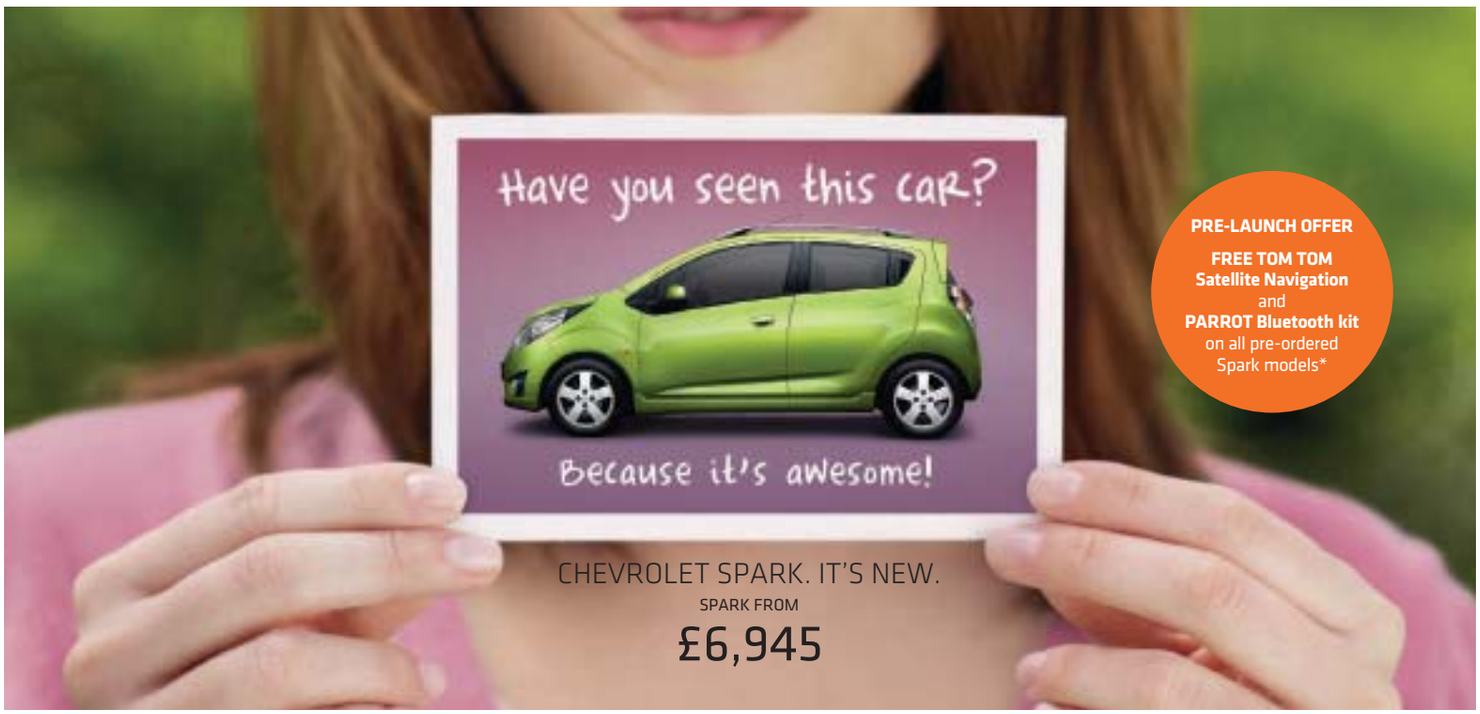
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Price of £6,945 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.
Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

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Car Swappage Event commences Friday 26th February 2010 - 8.00am and finishes Sunday 28th February 2010 - 4.00pm, after the event normal pricing will resume. *Cash back will be given if your vehicle is worth more than the car purchased, if the car you wish to purchase costs more than your current vehicle a balance added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

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Think small, think light in the cheap 4x4 fight

DrivingReview



by STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

SuzukiJimny



OUR first big fall of snow this year caused chaos.

It always does. Kent just does not see white stuff often enough, as highlighted by how stupidly people drive in it and how some, in search of reassurance, rush to buy a 4x4.

We responded with a feature on the best and cheapest secondhand off-road leviathans, like old Land Rovers, Jeeps, Shoguns and Land Cruisers.

These monsters are good, but guzzle fuel, may cost you in maintenance, and are big cars to keep around just for a snowy day.

Roomy

The alternative is to think small and light and you don't need to think long, because there are just three mini 4x4 contenders: the Fiat Panda 4x4 (from £11,000) – roomy and capable but not a true off-roader – the Daihatsu Terios (from £12,997), and the Suzuki Jimny (from £10,715).

I like the Terios; it's a five-door and capable off-road, as JC (Clarkson not Christ) showed on TV's Top Gear when he set off cross-country to elude a pack of hounds, but it is the most expensive in the sector by a long way.

When it comes to bangs for off-roading bucks though, the Jimny is the obvious choice.

Suzuki has made 'light Jeeps' since 1970 and there is not much difference between the current car and those early models.

I saw lots while living in Cornwall, testament to their ruggedness and affordability – they know the value of a penny in that county.

The Jimny's strength and weakness lies in its 'proper 4x4' construction – a rigid chassis with body bolted on top and short overhangs. Along with long travel suspension and a light 'footprint', this gives the Jimny excellent off-road ability.

But this arrangement on a short wheelbase makes the Suzuki an acquired taste on-road. The suspension nowadays seems better than I remember and soaks up big bumps well, as you might expect, but it is fidgety – don't buy a Jimny just for posing.

The cabin is also pretty cramped; those in front get a decent deal and the high driving position is superb for such a compact car, but the rear seats are really only suitable for kids, and the boot is nearly half that of the Panda 4x4 and less than a third of the Terios.

There is also no choice on engine and though the little 85bhp 1,328cc petrol engine and low gearing delivers good off-road ability, the Jimny is one of the slowest cars you can buy.

However, the gears and steering are crisp so

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you can enjoy piloting this little workhorse around with an average economy around 40mpg and it will cruise happily – just – at 70mph, though the cabin is noisy.

Fixtures and fittings are as durable and functional as you might expect on this type of car, though the indicator stalk is mounted on the right – most of us are now used to a Continental-style mounting on the left.

Buy it for the right reasons though and the Suzuki is unbeatable and indestructible. Most of the time you can run in economical two-wheel drive, via the rear axle, but in the tricky conditions of our more recent dump of snow, I was able to hit the '4WD' and even the low ratio '4WDL' button for extra purchase.

It was particularly pleasing to cruise past a melee of cars and the inevitable white van stuck on a hill near my home.

However, while full 4x4 can be engaged when driving straight at up to 60mph, it must not be used on dry or simply wet road surfaces – it is only for extreme or off-road situations.



DrivingPortfolio

SUZUKI JIMNY SZ4 £11,225

Driving appeal	★
Image	★★★
Space	★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£175/year
Best rival	Daihatsu Terios

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: surprise, surprise - the fairly crude ride and handling

NOT SURE: Suzuki should tinker too much with the car because I...

REALLY LIKE: how the Suzuki delivers exactly 'what it says on the tin' at the right price.

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In Seat Entertainment available as cost option. Model shown is 5008 Exclusive, available from £21,245. *Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £55.00 Government First Registration Fee and apply to the new 5008. (PEUG33102)

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10

New registration special feature

The new '10-Plate makes economic sense



MARKET LEADER: Vauxhall Insignia VXR's power and all-wheel drive make this a worthy performance flagship for the 2009 Car of the Year line-up

COMMENT

By **STEVE LOADER**

BRITAIN has limped out of recession, so the brakes should be easing off now for buying a new '10 registration plate

Assailed by falling demand and over-capacity, carmakers and dealers have been desperate to move metal with discounts, leases and finance packages to tempt even the gloomiest recession watcher.



RIVAL: Mazda3 is now posing a serious threat to the everyday Ford Focus

Those lucky enough to have savings may also check the paltry interest earned and think it's a good time to use that capital to help the motoring budget, either by down-sizing or buying a more economical and eco-friendly/low road tax model – sales of city cars and superminis are booming.

And the two grand windfall under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme might be ending, but many carmakers are replacing it with similar offers rather than bothering with inflated list prices that most people haggle down anyway.

The appeal of buying new has been enhanced by narrowing options on the used market, where prices have become ridiculous at a time when hard cash is tight.

Year-old examples such as ex-fleeters and dealer demonstrators shot up 25 per cent in value last year, while the three-year/average mileage examples that are dealers' mainstay stock are in short supply as dealer forecourts and private buyers drive up prices at auction.

The rise in used values has been caused by consumers and fleets backing off buying new cars at the first sign of the recession, which knocked on to choke used supplies further down the line.

With the '10 Plate upon us, surely some used-car buyers will see the sense in buying a new motor and cheering themselves up too?

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Official fuel consumption for the SEAT range in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 25.4 (11.1) - 57.6 (4.9); extra-urban 42.8 (6.6) - 94.2 (3.0); combined 34.9 (8.1) - 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions 98 - 196 g/km.

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Vauxhall eco Astra is quick to market



VAUXHALL did not waste any time bringing its most miserly version of the all-new sixth generation Astra to market.

Just weeks after the classy five-door hatch arrived in showrooms (from £15,736) proudly wearing a 'made in Britain' label, the ecoFLEX version can be ordered, priced from £17,920.

For the company car driver though, the figures that matter are a 12.1 per cent improvement in emissions over the conventional 1.7-litre diesel model, road tax at £35 and 13 per cent less benefit in kind taxation.

Like Vauxhall's other environment and pocket-friendly ecoFLEX versions of popular models, the Astra 'greenie' uses a combination of re-mapped powertrain and improved aerodynamics, without major changes to the positive driving experience.

The new Astra narrowly missed out on the current European Car of the Year title, a win that would have followed up on an outright victory for Vauxhall's big and stylish Insignia saloon/hatchback/estate range (from £18,070) – last year's replacement for the long-running Vectra company car contender.

The UK arm of General Motors is also playing to design strengths elsewhere, with the Corsa three/five-door hatchback (from £10,507) one of Britain's top-three favourite cars, while the cleverly-packaged seven-seats-as-standard Zafira continues to lead the midi-MPV sector.

Vauxhall also offers the Meriva mini-MPV – officially priced from £13,738 though replacement later this year suggests there will be keen deals around – and the clever Agila supermini-MPV (from £8,473).

The griffin-badge brand also has a stylish contender in the 4x4/SUV sector, the Antara – deceptively luxurious and priced from £21,956.



Toyota aims to take the pain out of insurance

TIRED of talking dogs, comic admirals, and Iggy Pop's lived-in face?

Toyota is taking the pain out of car insurance by offering one year's insurance free to over-21s who order and register a new Aygo city car (pictured) by March 31 this year – this on top of a '£500 off' deal.

The offer applies to all Aygo three and five-doors (from £8,250), including the £8,995 three-door Aygo Platinum, which comes with 14-inch spoked alloys, metallic paint, six-speaker sound system and Alcantara/leather upholstery – and that free insurance.

The world's No1 motor brand can also offer 3.9 per cent typical APR finance.

Those who want an even smaller car should check out the clever IQ city car (from £9,995) which can seat three adults and a child – just about.

Toyota has also transformed its engines using 'Optimal Drive' technology, which delivers more power yet offers better economy and lower emissions.

In the supermini class it offers the popular Yaris from around £10,000, while the bigger Auris (from £14,500) contests the family hatchback sector.

Families needing more room should look at the sharply-styled Avensis saloon/estate range (from £16,800), while the seven-seat Verso (£16,720) is reckoned one of the best 5-7-seat MPVs available.

The brand also has a 4x4/SUV (sports utility vehicle) to suit everyone, from the two or four-wheel drive Urban Cruiser (from £14,800) to the ever-popular RAV4 (from £20,000) to the awesome go anywhere Land Cruisers (from £30,400).

Toyota also sells the world's best known hyrbrid eco car, the Prius (from £19,500).







Big savings to be made using LPG, says Proton

PROTON claims more British motorists are opting out of the volatile petrol car market and into LPG (liquid petroleum gas).

The Malaysian brand is the only manufacturer on the UK market to offer an LPG-ready car at no extra conversion cost to the motorist – normally about £1,500 – and has been rewarded by rising sales; GEN-2 ecoLogic (pictured) buyers increased by as much as 375 per cent in one month during 2009.

Proton says this reflects growing dissatisfaction among motorists towards the over-inflated price of petrol, especially as LPG costs motorists just under half the price and burns more cleanly with lower emissions.

For the average motorist driving 12,000 miles a year, it can save around £670 – that's on top of an attractive £9,995 start price for the 1.6-litre five or four-door GEN-2 whether in conventional petrol or petrol/LPG ecoLogic format.

Simon Park, sales director at Proton UK, said: "LPG gives motorists the best of both worlds. It has been proved to be more eco-friendly than petrol and diesel and it also costs almost half the price to run."

For those questioning the convenience of LPG, it's becoming increasingly easy to fill up, with over 1,400 refuelling sites around the UK, including motorway service stations and at major supermarkets.

Conventional GEN-2 prices start even lower at £8,995, if fitted with the 1.3-litre engine.

The marque also produces the bargain price five-door Savvy supermini (£7,995) and there is a sporty three-door hatchback, the Satria Neo (from £9,995) with well-tuned handling.



Consistent award-winning Volkswagen hatchbacks

VOLKSWAGEN has landed a string of awards for its current generation Polo and Golf hatchbacks, both demonstrating above-average levels of refinement for their classes.

The new three/five-door Polo supermini (from £9,910) gained particular recognition after winning the current European Car of the Year award, while both VWs won their respective categories in the latest What Car? magazine awards – the UK's 'motoring Oscars'.

The market had a taste of why the Polo (pictured) has been so well-received, when the German car giant preceded it with the latest generation Golf, which carried over all the driver-pleasing features of its predecessor while also setting a new benchmark for cabin quality and refinement in the family hatchback sector.

The three/five-door Golf (from £14,850) has also made significant inroads into the company car sector, now helped by an eco-friendly BlueMotion model (from £18,100) with a road tax-exempt 99g/km CO2 figure.

For those of an economical mind, VW also produces the three-door Fox model from £7,460 and has introduced low-emission, small-capacity turbocharged petrol engines for several model line-ups, but VW is not all about counting the pennies; as ever, the Golf has a legendary GTI version (from £24,175) and then there is the reborn Scirocco (from £18,860) – one of the most stylish yet affordable coupes available.

The marque has also created a classy folding hardtop coupe, the Eos (from £20,320) and offers two rugged 4x4/SUV contenders in the Tiguan (from £20,125) and Touareg flagship (from £31,290), as well as the limo-class Phaeton (from £45,565).

Our latest '10 plate offers. (Opportunity on a plate.)



Fox from £7,460.

Fox 1.2 55PS 3-year, 10,000 miles per annum Solutions example.

34 monthly payments of	£99.00	Amount of credit	£5,392.29
Deposit	£2,067.71	Total amount payable	£8,413.71
Acceptance fee*	£125.00	Option to purchase fee†	£60.00
Optional final payment	£2,795.00	Excess mileage (per mile)	4.23p
Retail cash price	£7,460.00		7.9% APR



New Polo from £9,910.

Polo S 1.2 60PS 3-door, 3-year, 10,000 miles per annum Solutions example.

34 monthly payments of	£109.00	Amount of credit	£7,019.00
Deposit	£2,891.00	Total amount payable	£11,241.00
Acceptance fee*	£125.00	Option to purchase fee†	£60.00
Optional final payment	£4,459.00	Excess mileage (per mile)	4.23p
Retail cash price	£9,910.00		7.9% APR



Golf S from £14,850.

Golf S 1.4 80PS 3-door, 3-year, 10,000 miles per annum Solutions example.

35 monthly payments of	£189.00	Amount of credit	£10,666.00
Deposit	£4,184.00	Total amount payable	£16,759.00
Acceptance fee**	£125.00	Option to purchase fee†	£60.00
Optional final payment	£5,900.00	Excess mileage (per mile)	5.64p
Retail cash price	£14,850.00		7.9% APR

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www.motorline.volkswagen.co.uk

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Typical 7.9% APR *Payable as first payment. †Payable with optional final payment. **Payable within first payment. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Retail sales only. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for registrations before March 31st, 2010. Volkswagen Finance, Freepost VWFS. Offer maybe varied or withdrawn at anytime.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Volkswagen range: urban 60.1 (4.7) – 13.3 (21.2); extra urban 83.1 (3.4) – 26.9 (10.5); combined 74.3 (3.8) – 19.5 (14.5).

CO_2 emissions 99 – 348g/km.

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Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2
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- Electric front windows
- Front and front side airbags
- Central locking

Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3 door
FROM **£6,995***
Includes £1,000 Government Scrappage and £1,345 Hyundai Top-up Plus
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- Electronic Stability Programme (ESP)
- Six airbags and active front head restraints
- Remote central locking

Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4
FROM **£7,995***
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Models featured: (1) Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2 at £5,695 in Electric Red Solid Paint at no extra cost. Price includes a customer saving of £2,065. (2) Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3 dr at £6,995 in Electric Red Solid Paint at no extra cost. Price includes a customer saving of £2,345. (3) Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 at £7,995 in Shine Red Solid Paint at no extra cost. Price includes a customer saving of £4,005. ***Prices shown are for Government Scrappage Scheme customers only, while Scheme lasts (until Government funding exhausted or 28 February 2010 if earlier)** and are On The Road (OTR) and reflect customer savings against the manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication. For full details please refer to http://www.hyundai.co.uk/newCars/i10/prices, http://www.hyundai.co.uk/newCars/i20/prices, http://www.hyundai.co.uk/newCars/i30/prices or Hyundai's January 2010 Price Guide, reference 01/10 HB2729. On the road prices include VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. These savings are only available to eligible customers who trade in a qualifying passenger car (M1) first registered in the UK on or before 29th February 2000 or a qualifying Light Commercial Vehicle not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (N1) first registered in the UK on or before 28th February 2002 against the purchase of a new Hyundai at a participating authorised UK Hyundai dealer during the Scheme period. Eligibility is subject to compliance with all requirements under the Government's Scrappage Scheme. Visit www.hyundai.co.uk for full details and applicable terms and conditions or see your local participating dealer. Where any saving offered exceeds the minimum £2,000 combined Government/Hyundai contribution under the Scrappage Scheme's rules, the additional incentive applies only to vehicles ordered between 1 January and 28 February 2010 and registered no more than 4 months later and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Please check www.hyundai.co.uk for details of current offers. The Scrappage Scheme incentives cannot be used, unless otherwise stated, in conjunction with any other offers. Scrappage Scheme is not applicable in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Scrappage Scheme customers agree to the dealer supplying their personal data to the Government for its use in the assessment of the Scheme.
Warranty only available on new cars purchased in the UK and sourced from Hyundai Motor UK Limited through its authorised dealers. See your local dealer for full warranty terms and conditions. Terms and conditions apply.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2: Urban 44.8 (6.3) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 Emissions 119g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 (2010 Model Year): Urban 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 54.3 (5.2), CO_2 Emissions 124g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 (2010 Model Year): Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2), Combined 46.3 (6.1), CO_2 Emissions 145g/km.





Seat sales race ahead

SEAT is looking forward optimistically in 2010 after an exceptional sales performance over the past 12 months.

Official figures for 2009 confirm that the sporty Spanish brand logged its best-ever market share in the UK with 1.5 per cent – December's share of 1.64 per cent came within a whisker of the marque's all-time market high for the month (1.65 per cent in 2003) despite the recession.

Seat's sporty, stylish and engaging model line-up – ranging from the Ibiza supermini (Cupra pictured) through sporty Leon hatch and practical Altea and Altea XL, to capacious seven-seat Alhambra and luxurious Exeo saloon and ST – will be joined by new Ibiza ST and ultra-quick Leon Cupra R performance flagships.

Seat's biggest sellers in 2009 were the Ibiza sisters, the more practical five-door (from £10,260) and rakish three-door SportCoupe (from £9,470).

The five-door Leon (from £13,970), with its coupe lines aided by the visual trick of recessing the rear door handles into the door frames, gave able support, while the Altea (from £14,170) and Altea XL (from £15,390) sporting MPVs offered an almost unique pitch for that sector of the car market.

But Seat also opened up a new executive sales line in the form of the well-equipped Exeo saloon (from £18,775) and ST estate.

Aside from this and well-established sporting credentials, Seat has also championed the shift to greener motoring with a line-up of environmentally responsible Ecomotive models led by the road tax exempt low-emission (99g/km CO2) Ibiza Ecomotive (from £12,790).

Citroën steps out from the shadows



FOR so long in the shadow of brand partner Peugeot, Citroën has re-discovered the innovation and style promoted by founder André Citroën.

Both are highlighted by its current range of superminis and highly-successful Picasso MPV sub-brand, but the French marque will also soon embark on a new venture with the launch of the DS3 – first of a premium car collection.

The DS3 is an undisguised tilt at the BMW Mini and Fiat 500, two cult cars made more popular by generous customising options.

For now, Citroën has big news in the form of the newly-launched five-door C3 (from £10,790) supermini (pictured), with the first panoramic windscreen widely available on a small car and a more upmarket cabin than its predecessor.

This car slots in above the bargain basement C1 city car – available with three and five doors – priced from £8,495.

The brand also has impressive contenders in the hard-fought family hatchback and family/company car sectors in the form of the three-door coupe/five-door C4 (from £14,395) and the 'Teutonic' C5 saloon/estate (from £18,995) designed particularly to attack and undercut German rivals.

Citroën also has a distinctive luxury flagship, the C6 (from £34,795) though even this cannot distract from the brand's diverse MPV range.

The sharply styled Picassos – five and seven-seat C4 versions (from £17,205) and the SUV-lookalike C3 (from £12,445) – dominate attention, but Citroën has also enjoyed success with the budget Nemo and Berlingo Multispace models, derived from vans, though these in turn use car platforms for better ride and handling.

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.

Government Scrappage scheme applies to vehicles first registered on or before 28th February 2000. Subject to final terms and conditions of the Government Scrappage Scheme. Number of cars that qualify in total Government Scheme not Renault UK only. Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT,12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. These offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered by 31st March 2010 and are available to retail customers only. These offers are correct at time of going to press and available at participating dealers only. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £395). Examples above exclude cost of metallic paint.

Happy 20th birthday to Mazda's iconic soft-top

MAZDA is celebrating two decades of global success with a 20th Anniversary Limited Edition Mazda MX-5.

Just 2,000 will be sold across the UK and Europe, each wearing a special edition scuff plate in stainless steel with a unique serial number (from 1 to 2000).

Based on the 1.8-litre SE soft-top roadster, this version has a special exterior styling package with chrome grille, door handles and headlight fascia along with silvered fog lamp surrounds and unique 17-inch alloys.

Prices for this desirable version of the third-generation 'MX' are to be announced, but the current range starts at £16,795 for the classic soft-top model and £18,795 for the ingenious folding hardtop roadster coupe version.

The 'Zoom Zoom' Japanese brand has also unveiled an all-new version of its sporty Mazda5 MPV (currently from £17,150) known for its sliding rear doors, and now including a new direct-injection, low-emission 2.0-litre petrol engine with start/stop feature.

The hatchback or estate Mazda6 family/company car star (currently from £16,115) has had a facelift, but the brand is also enjoying big success with its sharply styled three and five-door Mazda2 (from £9,550) supermini and the recently-launched Mazda3 (from £13,930) – a distinctive and stylish alternative to the ubiquitous Ford Focus that includes the stunning MPS hot-hatch version.

Mazda has worked hard to marry lighter design with more economical low-emission petrol and diesel engines, while staying true to its driver-pleasing Zoom Zoom spirit exemplified by the evergreen MX-5 and the innovative RX-8 (£24,995) rotary-engine four-door coupe.



Patriot highlights Jeep's 4x4 value



JEEP was the original proper 4x4 brand but has also become one of the most affordable, thanks largely to its Patriot entry model (pictured).

And its economy champion has also just been upgraded for 2010, yet it is still keenly priced from £13,995.

While it retains the American brand's legendary off-road performance, the Patriot is also versatile and comfortable enough to be a serious alternative to conventional family hatchbacks or MPVs.

Standard Patriot features include electric windows, air con and alloys and the 2.0 CRD diesel models (from £16,495) are capable of averaging more than 40mpg.

Mid-range Jeep Patriot Sport+trim (from £14,995) brings even more kit: front fog lamps, cruise control, deep-tint sunscreen glass, leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls, and Bluetooth phone connectivity and voice command.

The Patriot comes with an all-wheel drive system – Freedom Drive – that provides real world capability and confidence in all-weather conditions, but runs normally in front-wheel drive for best economy, engaging four-wheel drive only when it detects that this is needed.

Jeep also has all the other 4x4 bases covered and still at prices that undercut most serious off-road rivals.

Its roughest and toughest customer is the classic go anywhere Wrangler (from £19,600) but this is strictly for enthusiasts.

The more occasional off-roader or rural family will be better off with five-door models like the Cherokee (from £24,995) and Range Rover rivalling Grand Cherokee (from £27,000) while ultimate capacity is delivered by the aptly-named seven-seat Commander (from £31,800).



Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): The All New Astra Range: urban – from 28.8 (9.9) to 49.6 (5.7), Extra-urban – from 50.4 (5.6) to 68.9 (4.1), Combined – from 39.8 (7.1) to 60.1 (4.7). CO_2 Emissions from 167 to 124g/km.

MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF 50% REQUIRED ON EXCLUSIV MODELS AND 30% ON ALL OTHER MODELS. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Offer available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks and apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 04.12.09 and 31.03.10, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Vaux87221)

Pros and cons of road tax savings

DON'T swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax, ***writes Steve Loader.***

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling eased the pressure a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars... just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government won't be any different due to existing agreements to clean up pollution – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

At present, you can escape paying anything if your car emits 100g/km or less and, from April 1, this benefit will apply to any car with a 130g/km or less rating, within one year of being registered. After that it will revert to £20-30 a year.

By the same token, anyone buying a serious CO2 emitter discharging 255g/km or more will be clobbered by a £950 charge in the first year and £435 thereafter when the new scale comes into effect – the current tax for cars in this band is £405.

Curiously, due to inconsistent emissions data on older cars, these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles. The higher charge increases to £205 after April 1.



BETTER DEAL: Dramatic changes in road tax over the past few years are driving sales of superminis like the Skoda Fabia

Road tax bands

Band A (0-100g/km of CO2) - £0
Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

Renault halo highlighted by hat-trick



RENAULT appears to have cornered the market in sporting halo models.

Not content with hot Renaultsport versions of its Twingo, Clio and Mégane hatchbacks, it has also revived the historic Gordini name and its distinctive blue with white stripes livery.

It all helped the French marque to an unprecented hat-trick in the 'Best Hot Hatch' category at the prestigious What Car? magazine awards.

The Twingo Renaultsport 133 Cup small hatchback won the under £15,000 category, the Clio Renaultsport 200 Cup won the £15,000-20,000 section and the new Mégane Renaultsport 250 (pictured) won the £20,000-plus group.

To top it all, the Mégane was also crowned overall 'Hot Hatch of the Year 2010'.

But the self-styled 'Createur d'Automobiles' is not just about sporting models; it has also led in supermini design and single-handedly created the people carrier sector.

The three/five-door Clio (from £10,709) range took over from the legendary Renault 5 and now delivers a level of ride comfort and cabin space combined with French chic that has made it a UK bestseller.

It also now has a baby brother in the three-door Twingo (from £7,552) contesting the city car sector.

Renault contests the traditional company car sector with the Laguna hatchback and estate (from £18,075) but is probably better known for MPVs, having launched the sector with the original 1980s-vintage Espace.

This continues with a modern successor (from £20,730), but Renault sells more of its smaller Scenic sister range (from £14,703) – itself a pioneer of the compact or midi-MPV sector.



Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.
Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) – 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Superb range 129 – 237 g/km.



Hyundai wishes you 'many happy returns'

FAR from mourning the passing of the £2,000-a-go Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme, Hyundai plans to uphold its spirit with new deals.

These include 'Trade and Upgrade', allowing the same £2,000 part exchange offer as Scrappage and 'Happy Returns', allowing existing Hyundai Scrappage customers the chance to swap to a new 2010-reg car in March for as little as £499.

"We have learned some valuable lessons from the 33,000 people who have bought cars from us under the Scrappage scheme" said Hyundai UK MD Tony Whitehorn.

"They love transparent pricing. They hate haggling. And if they see a good deal they will snap it up.

"What we are offering post-Scrappage will build on this experience and will change the way cars are bought in the UK forever."

Under Trade and Upgrade buyers can choose any new Hyundai, not just the more expensive models.

With Happy Returns, people who bought a new i10 city car, i20 supermini or i30 family hatch last year can swap it for a 2010-reg Hyundai any time up until the car's first anniversary, saving the customer the cost of the first service and tax disc renewal.

The new car will also, of course, have a fresh five-year warranty – a standard feature across the Korean marque's range.

The customer's contribution to the deal will be £499 for an i10, £599 for an i20 or £749 for an i30 – they can trade up and down the range to switch to a different car or add options.

Skoda keeps deals rolling for new reg



SKODA has extended its 'No-VAT' offer across all Octavia, Fabia and Roomster models, with a potential saving of up to £3,388.

Instead of closing at the end of January, this deal continues to apply to orders up to March 31.

It means the popular Fabia supermini still costs from just £7,870 – saving up to £2,100 and including the eco-friendly Greenline – while the multi-award winning Octavia (pictured) that played such a major role in the Czech marque's revival is available from just £10,526.

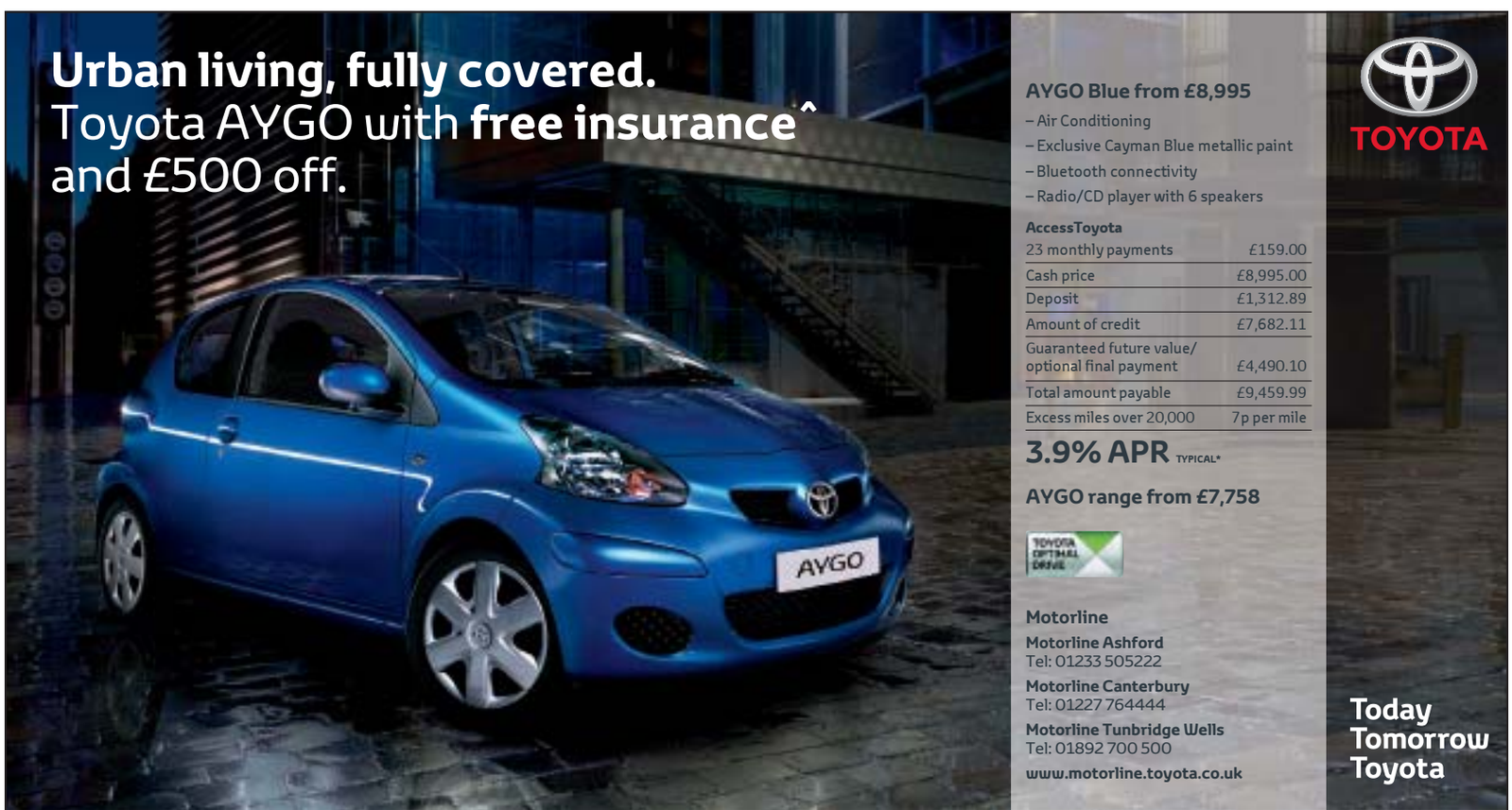
Buyers who choose the Skoda Superb – Top Gear Magazine's Luxury Car of the Year – will benefit from three years or 30,000 miles free servicing.

In addition, low-rate finance through Skoda's Solutions is available across the range, including the recently introduced Yeti crossover, available with front-wheel drive or 4x4.

At just 7.9 per cent APR, Skoda Finance offers rates lower than the average high street bank rates.

And the brand says there is a Skoda Solution for everyone: customers can choose between part-exchanging their car for a new Skoda, making an optional final payment to purchase their new car, or simply returning it at the end of the contract.

All of the these deals top a great year for Skoda, which increased UK market share in 2009 to nearly two per cent. This was helped by the all-new Superb and Yeti and the VW-owned brand's consistent reputation for customer satisfaction – it won the highly respected Auto Express 'Driver Power' awards 2009 for 'Customer Satisfaction' and 'Best Manufacturer'.



Model shown AYGO Blue 3-dr at £8,995. Price shown is on the road price less £250 customer saving plus £250 Centre contribution. AYGO range starts at £7,758 incl. £250 customer savings and £250 Centre contribution. *3.9% APR available on all AYGO when ordered, registered & financed through Toyota Financial Services, on a 2 year AccessToyota (Personal Contract Purchase) Plan with flexible customer deposits from 0% to 35%, between 13.02.10 and 31.03.10, at participating Centres. Terms & conditions apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. This offer is not available through the Toyota (GB) PLC Scrappage Scheme. Prices correct at time of going to press & include VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Subject to availability. ^1 year's free comprehensive insurance offer is available on AYGO retail sales registered between 13.02.10 and 31.03.10. Offer available to customers aged from 21 to 75 yrs incl. (For Northern Ireland, age eligibility is 25 to 75 yrs incl.) No Claims Discount protection will be granted to customers who can provide satisfactory proof of at least 4 yrs No Claims Discount and with no more than 1 fault claim within the last 3 yrs. Use is limited to social, domestic and pleasure and commuting to a single permanent place of work. Offer is limited to the insured plus spouse (or civil/life partner) only. The insured and any additional driver must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and had no more than 1 fault claim in the last 4 years. Offer only available to customers with no more than 1 speeding conviction or pending prosecution in the last 5 years. Standard Toyota Motor Insurance Terms & Conditions apply (available on request) - these will be confirmed in the policy document. Excludes Channel Islands.

AYGO 1.0 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 51.4 (5.5), Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO2 Emissions 106g/km.

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Confidence fights chill wind

ICY weather has put a chill into a frail economy, prompting national fears of a double-dip recession, though Kent businesses generally remain confident.

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that UK retail sales – a strong economic barometer – fell by nearly two per cent last month and was hardly the strong signal required after a narrow 0.1 per cent growth over the last quarter of 2009.

The figures from the high street are even worse than those released by the British Retail Consortium earlier this month, which showed a faltering 1.2 per cent rise in January against 2008.

Bad weather has largely been blamed, though Kent retailers have put on a brave face. Tom Price, general manager at Westwood Cross in Thanet, said: "Footfall for January was up five per cent overall on last year which is very good considering the bad weather people faced. January is traditionally a flat trading period and I think the picture is generally a very mixed one with some retailers clearly experiencing a better month than others."

Outside the retail sector, businesses are refusing to think the worst, according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAEW).

It says business confidence in the South East has risen to +24.3 according to the latest Business Confidence Monitor (BCM).

This is the fourth consecutive increase in the Confidence Index from a low of -38.7 for the same period last year, but still remains below the UK average of +25.8. Looking forward, firms in the South East expect a significant improvement in the main indicators of business health over the coming year. Having seen gross profits shrink by 2.1 per cent over the last 12 months, firms now expect profits to grow by 3.7 per cent over the coming year.

Turnover, which has declined by 0.8 per cent over the year to date, is also forecast to rise over the coming year, by 3.7 per cent. Sales volumes are projected to expand by 3.8 per cent in the next 12 months following a 2.2 per cent contraction over the last year.

However, turnover, profits and sales growth expectations have all moderated slightly since the last BCM, which suggests that the region's economic recovery may be more sluggish than originally anticipated.

Fay Webster, ICAEW's South East director, said: "Despite this increase in confidence, businesses in the region are wary about turnover, profit and sales going forward. This emphasises the fragility of the recovery. It needs careful nurturing and firms need to be aware of any threats on the horizon."

However, despite the modest groundswell of confidence, one of the coldest Januarys on record has slowed the recent recovery in house building volumes seen in the latter part of 2009. Applications to build new homes across the UK during the rolling quarter November, 2009, to January, 2010, were 65 per cent up from the historical lows of the same period a year ago (from 14,738 to 24,315).

This compares however with 38,459 seen in the period November, 2007, to January, 2008, and shows just how far the recovery has yet to run in order to return the UK to the sort of volumes desperately needed.

Big Mac sizzles despite recession

BURGERS and fries chain McDonald's is making light of economic gloom by injecting £1.5 million and 30 new jobs into its Kent operations.

The move is headlined by a bold refurbishment of five restaurants across the county – two each in Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury and one in Dover.

These will each get a £300,000 makeover starting this summer and build upon McDonald's robust trading during 2009, even though the recession was still raging. The brand says it gained good market share last year, recruited 6,000 people and enjoyed a second year of double-digit growth.

The redesigned restaurants will feature McDonald's new contemporary face and style, free WiFi, new seating options and extended opening hours. They are also said to complement an updated menu other than the familiar burgers and fries, including salads, porridge, fruit bags and Rainforest Alliance certified coffee made with organic British milk.

The investment will create 30 jobs in Kent, though few in the context of a nationwide plan to employ 5,000 new people this year. McDonald's said employees will benefit from the improved restaurants as each site gains a 'crew room' with comfortable seating, TV and computer, which can even be used to study through the chain's online 'Our Lounge' staff website.

McDonald's CEO Richard Forte said: "Changes at our restaurants are well received by customers so we will continue to bring a more modern and convenient experience to them. We believe in investing in people and are pleased to provide job opportunities in Kent.

"Many of the jobs we create are filled by young people, but we aren't just providing jobs; we're providing career opportunities through training programmes including our apprenticeship scheme, GCSE and A-Level equivalent qualifications and broader on-the-job skills development."

The outlets to be refurbished are at Victoria Place and the Business Park in Tunbridge Wells, St George's Street and Stour Retail Park in Canterbury and Biggin Street, Dover.



NEW LOOK: McDonald's giving restaurants a makeover



Firms' BIG chance to bid for Olympic gold

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

FIRMS in Kent and Medway are now better placed in the race for contracts linked to the London Olympics in 2012 and the public sector generally thanks to the University of Greenwich at Medway.

That is the claim after the university's School of Engineering launched a Business Innovation Group (BIG) to hold networking and information gathering events for local companies. BIG events will also show how the university can share its facilities and expertise to help firms broaden their markets and achieve their goals.

The new organisation showed a flying start by welcoming more than 90 guests to a BIG breakfast launch at the campus in Chatham Maritime, where Business Link regional programme manager Paul Toben outlined the bidding process for the London 2012 Games and contracts worth some £9 billion.

Competing

He advised business leaders to seek contracts and opportunities through the Business Network one-stop shop www.competefor.com within the website www.london2012.com.

He said firms competing for contracts also needed to prove they are 'fit to supply' and meet requirements such as demonstrating their business credentials and policies.

And Mr Toben recommended taking advantage of specialist advice from organisations such as Business Link, where advisers could not only ensure companies fulfilled mandatory requirements to bid for 2012 Games contracts, but also help on policies and planning to help companies differentiate themselves from their competitors.

Tim Allen, MD of the MJ Allen engineering group, based in Ashford, delivered the keynote address: A Manufacturer's Experience of Public Sector Contracts, and urged local businesses to take advantage of the economic climate, where local and national government was keen to buy in services and products, as research had shown outsourcing generally saved up to 20 per cent.

He also outlined the importance of exploring contract and tendering information via websites such as supply2.gov.uk – a key route for contracts valued at less than £100,000.

He also valued the South East Business Portal, outlining opportunities with the region's 74 local authorities and nine fire and rescue services.

And he urged businesses to gain recognised status through such programmes as the Contractors' Health and Safety Approval Scheme (CHAS) to simplify aspects of the tendering process.

Dr Pal Kulandaivel, who organised the event for the university, said: "BIG promises to add real value to the local business community and the network is being built in association with a range of key local business organisations.

"These include Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce, the Partnership for Profit Improvement, and South East Business Innovation and Growth.

"We are planning a calendar of monthly meetings which will provide advice and information on such topics as bid writing, collaborative development projects, knowledge transfer partnerships and EU funding.

"In addition, there will be special events focusing on specific sectors such as electronics and engineering."



IN THE RUNNING: The University of Greenwich is helping win the 2012 contracts race

Helping hand on first rung of the housing ladder

HOMEGROWN housing developer Hillreed claims to be weathering the economic downturn and helping hard-pressed first-time buyers at the same time.

Marketing spokesman Dean Markall said the Maidstone-based company had seen much change in its 35 years, but nothing like the ups and then downs of the past decade.

And he agreed that first-timers had been worst hit, through now having to find sometimes hefty deposits when previously they simply saved for their moving costs, carpets and fees.

But he said Hillreed had moved to plug the gap: "We use equity share, which can be tailored to the amount that the purchaser is struggling to fill that gap by.

"Also that's sometimes helped out by parents who are happy to invest in another property with their children, rather than leaving the money in an account that perhaps isn't giving them the best of returns."

But the market has also been slowed by would-be buyers higher up the housing ladder and Hillreed had used part exchanges to unlock moves that wouldn't otherwise go ahead.

"If it fits certain criteria, then part exchange is a very hassle-free way of people moving on," said Mr Markall.

• For more comment on the housing sector, see our video at: www.businessforkent.co.uk or search 'business'@yourkenttv.co.uk.

To view, search 'Hillreed' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Hillreed's Dean Markall tells Julie Maddocks how the housing developer is trying to 'plug the gap' and help first-time buyers



Export expert's bank role

HSBC has appointed James Dodson as deputy head of corporate banking for the South East including Kent, with a brief to help potential exporters.

He will deal with bank customers turning over in excess of £25 million and report to regional chief Chris Doyle at HSBC's South East Corporate Banking Centre, Crawley.

Dodson has 20 years' experience in banking, notably corporate banking and leveraged finance.

He has previously been head of the Far East Banking Centre for HSBC and coordinated HSBC's corporate and structured banking international strategy in the UK.

With a timely reference to recent national calls to rebuild the UK's former export strength, Doyle, revealed that, among other tasks: "James will be focused on working to explore and unlock the potential for international growth among our new and existing customer base.

"I am sure his strong background in this area will be a real benefit for businesses in the region."

Dodson himself added: "I will be looking to help businesses realise their international potential through my knowledge and HSBC's unrivalled position in this area."



HSBC's James Dodson

Dame Stella and stellar author at conference

FORMER head of MI5 Dame Stella Rimington and Kent-based motivational speaker Adrian Webster are top draws at a Kent human resources conference next week.

Hosted by Kent County Council, the third Kent HR Conference on Thursday aims to bring public and private sector HR practitioners together to share techniques and generate ideas.

Dame Stella was the spy bureau's first ever female head and the inspiration for Dame Judi Dench as 'M' in the James Bond movies. Mr Webster is the Bearsted man who started out as a policeman, then founded a milk delivery firm from scratch before embarking on a stellar career in sales.

He is author of the cult company culture 'bible' Polar Bear Pirates and Their Quest to Reach Fat City.

He will share tips on how to create a winning environment on a shoestring budget. "I normally take the train to the north or speak in London, so it's a pleasure to be presenting to a home audience," he said.

"Things have moved on since my first book and I hope to be able to give my Polar Bear Pirates new skills to equip them to engage and inspire everyday people to deliver extraordinary results."

Tickets are still available for the conference, being held at the Ashford International Hotel, from 9.30am.

For more information, click on www.kent.gov.uk/kenthrconference.



Stella Rimington

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.79% **L:** 70% **U:** 30/04/2012
OD: £1,304

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2013
OD: £1,044

BM SOLUTIONS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.29% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2013
OD: £2,174

NATWEST INT SOLS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.39% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2012
OD: £529

OTHER

NORTHERN ROCK
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.65% **L:** 70% **U:** 01/04/2012
OD: £1,030

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.49% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £1,290

MORTGAGE BOX – ACCORD
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 28/02/2012
OD: £2,285

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 1.84% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £2,310

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Call centre jobs risk as bank giant wields axe

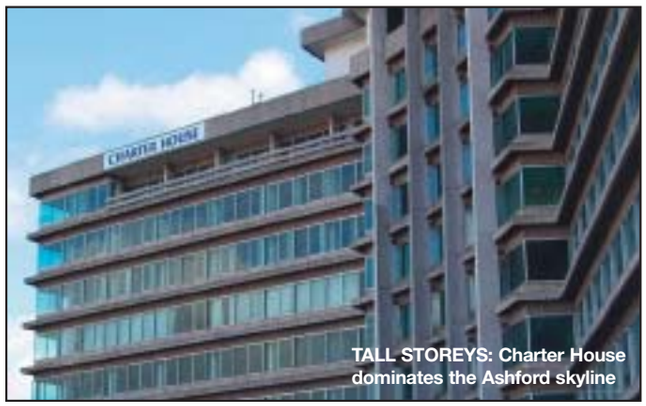
By **STEVE LOADER** and **ED HILL**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPANISH-based banking giant Santander is closing its Alliance and Leicester call centre in Ashford, putting 128 jobs at risk.

Santander took over the Alliance chain in 2008 and workers at the centre in Charter House began to fear for their jobs a year ago, though unions had hoped to persuade management into a new long-term contract to keep the site open.

Nigel Cotgrove from the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) said: "This is a bitter blow to our hard-working members who are among the best performing staff in the whole bank. This news is all the more disappointing given the impressive profits achieved by Santander UK."

The news also conflicts with a Santander PR charity campaign covered by BusinessforKent, to rebrand 29 branches of the former Abbey and Bradford and Bingley building societies across Kent.



TALL STOREYS: Charter House dominates the Ashford skyline

Santander launched the promotion in mid-January, saying it wanted to strengthen relationships in communities served by the relevant branches. "It's part of Santander's ongoing commitment to local communities, with over £5 million donated to good causes last year," a spokeswoman said at the time.

Unfortunately, the only communities benefiting from Santander's plans for the Alliance chain will be in the north of England, where it now wants to concentrate the business.

The Ashford centre will close in June, having opened in 1985. It deals with customer calls on current and savings accounts and is one of the last major employers using Charter House. Mr Cotgrove said: "We urged Santander to use our skilled members as the core of a new long-term contact centre in Ashford. However, we have been unable to convince the bank to reverse its decision. We are now focusing on options to keep as many people in jobs as possible through redeployment or relocation."

A voluntary redundancy scheme has been launched for employees.

A spokesman from Alliance and Leicester said: "Carlton Park in Leicester and Bootle in Merseyside are strategically important sites for us in the UK and as such ones that will be a focus for the consolidation of our operations.

"All staff will be offered relocation or redeployment to other roles in the region. Santander has approximately 90 vacancies in the South East.

"This decision may lead to a number of redundancies, where staff do not wish to relocate and redeployment is not found, although it is hoped these will be voluntary.

"There is never a good time to announce changes such as this and we are acutely aware of the uncertainty staff are facing. We thank them for their continued professionalism and co-operation."

Dukelease Properties owns and manages Charter House, but declined to comment. Santander, founded in Spain in 1857, has grown rapidly across Europe in recent years and now claims to be the most efficient bank operating in the UK.

It serves 25 million customers through two retail businesses here: the rebranded Santander, formed from the Abbey and Bradford and Bingley – acquired in 2004 and 2008 respectively – and Alliance and Leicester.

OPEN MARKET ANNUITY RATES FOR MATURING PENSION FUNDS – PER £10,000

* ASSUME 50% INCOME FOR SPOUSE OF SAME AGE ON ANNUITANTS DEATH, PAYABLE MONTHLY IN ADVANCE WITHOUT ESCALATION, RATE IS PER £10,000 OF FUND MATURED AND ASSUME THE CLIENT IS IN GOOD HEALTH

MALE AGED 60		FEMALE AGED 60	
LEGAL & GENERAL	£544	AVIVA	£527
CANADA LIFE	£538	CANADA LIFE	£526
AVIVA	£522	LEGAL & GENERAL	£518
AEGON SE	£512	PRUDENTIAL	£497
PRUDENTIAL	£510	STANDARD LIFE	£496

MALE AGED 65		FEMALE AGED 65	
LEGAL & GENERAL	£597	CANADA LIFE	£575
CANADA LIFE	£591	AVIVA	£571
AVIVA	£574	LEGAL & GENERAL	£565
PRUDENTIAL	£574	PRUDENTIAL	£557
STANDARD LIFE	£565	STANDARD LIFE	£552

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Tom has competition stitched up

EMBROIDERER Tom McCann knows how to attract attention and now he's picked up £1,000 of free printing for his efforts.

Tom became one of just four UK winners of a printing company's "shameless plug" competition after driving around Ashford for five days with a 7ft by 3ft banner on the back of his truck.

He had a bit of a head start, as the 'van' in question is a head-turning bright red customised Chevrolet Silverado, and the attention-seeking paid off handsomely when Printing.com picked him out as one of its weekly winners.

"I've just set up a new clothing embroidery business called Logotogogo, and since I needed some promotional material printed I decided I'd enter Printing.com's 'Give us a shameless plug' competition," Tom explained.

His efforts were so convincing that while he was driving around the Designer Outlet Centre, someone stopped him and asked him how much he would charge to print them some business cards.



DRIVEN MAN: Tom McCann and Chevy Silverado

More than 65,000 customers in the UK were invited to enter the competition via email and post. Ashford's Printing.com manager Danny Clements said he was delighted that the town had produced a winner in the national contest.



New faces on Caxtons team


JAMES LOGAN

CAXTONS Chartered Surveyors has welcomed two new faces to its commercial agency in Kent, including a new head for that division, based in Canterbury.

He is James Logan, who studied for his estate management degree at the University of Greenwich and has been a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors since 2001.

"I am delighted to have been appointed head of Caxtons' Commercial Agency in Canterbury," he said. "I look forward to building upon the excellent name Caxtons has already established in the area."


JAMES ROBERTS

Having previously worked in Caxtons' student lettings division in Canterbury, James Roberts has moved to the Kent Thameside office in Gravesend, where he joins the commercial agency industrial and Office division as a commercial property agent.

"I learned a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed my time as a member of the student lettings team, but I am delighted to be working within the commercial property sector, where I feel very at home. We, at Caxtons, are well positioned to take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities available now and in the future."

James graduated from the University of Greenwich in 2006 with a degree in politics and business.

Smaller firms sought for 'find and fix' roads blitz

AFTER one of the worst winters in memory, Kent County Council, is putting out tenders to rectify appalling weather damage and potholes scarring county roads.

The authority is targeting small and medium-sized enterprises to bid for the 'find and fix' mission, with mid-April as a targeted start date.KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We want to get on with the job of tackling Kent's potholes – and fast. I recently announced that we are making available at least £1 million additional funds for this. If needed, more will be found."

He added the authority was also keen to back small and medium-sized businesses in the economic downturn to "do a quality find and fix repair on the Kent road network.

"We have already fixed more than 10,000 potholes and more now needs to be done. When we have the new contractors on board, the blitz can begin in earnest."

Stores adopt waste food to fuel system

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

SUPERMARKET chain Waitrose has committed to a waste-food-to-fuel system for all of its 15 Kent food stores.

The industry-leading measures, which collect and then convert leftover food into renewable energy, has also won Waitrose – in partnership with recycling expert Cawleys – a major green award from the Association For Organics Recycling (AFOR).

Waitrose was the first UK food retailer to begin using anaerobic digestion in 2008 and, by May, more than half its stores will contribute waste food to feed the national grid – more than any other retailer.

Micro-organisms break down the leftovers to produce a methane-rich biogas, allowing Waitrose to generate 400MWhr of electricity so far through anaerobic digestion – enough to boil almost eight million kettles.

Apart from power generated though, anaerobic digestion also eliminates the need to send waste to landfill sites where it leaks methane gas into the atmosphere and contributes to global warming.



GREEN PUSH: Waitrose's Kent stores will be converting waste food to fuel by May

The retailer has also been prominent in efforts to drive down waste elsewhere in the supermarket industry, through sustainable practices and reuseable and recyclable packaging.

It says it has already diverted 50 per cent of its total operational waste away from landfill and anaerobic digestion will help it to a goal of 95 per cent by 2013. Waitrose recycling and waste manager Arthur Sayer said: "It's not in our business interests to produce any waste at all.

"Inevitably though, some food waste does occur and anaerobic digestion has proven to be a sustainable way of eliminating the need to send it to landfill, reducing our impact on the environment and creating renewable energy along the way.

"This recognition comes at an exciting time as we extend anaerobic digestion to more of our shops."

Extension of the scheme to Kent is part of a new phase involving 66 stores and Cawleys MD Jon Cawley said it showed that Waitrose now treated food waste management as seriously as food sourcing.

"Anaerobic digestion creates a positive circle whereby food waste can be recycled back to fertiliser for the land, in a process which produces renewable energy, and avoids sending waste to landfill, where it can produce greenhouse gases."

The Kent stores due to join the anaerobic digestion scheme by May are the newly-opened Ashford, plus Bromley, Bromley South, Beckenham, Green Street Green, Ramsgate, Hythe, Dartford, Longfield, Allington Park, Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Sevenoaks, Biggin Hill and Tenterden.



Homegrown waste firm expanding operations



WASTE management and recycling group Countrystyle has expanded operations in Kent, with the help of investment promotion agency Locate in Kent.

Countrystyle now has a new HQ in Lenham, near Maidstone, which includes a new 'dry recycling' facility for paper, cardboard and plastics.

The firm has also completed new offices and a material recovery facility (MRF) at its Ridham Dock site, near Sittingbourne.

This development also includes a hi-tech composting system, one of the first in Kent, recycling organic material into products for use in agriculture and landscaping. The company began as a family-run agricultural business in Pluckley, near Ashford, and launched composting services in 1996 after noticing demand from the farming community.

It has gone on to become a leader in alternatives to landfill, which still takes nearly half of England's municipal waste – 27 million tonnes in 2009 according the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Recent changes in waste legislation have led Countrystyle to develop viable alternatives and the company aims to offer complete waste management and recycling, from one-off skip hire to handling large multinationals. Manager Caroline Mills said: "Our new site in Lenham, close to the M20, along with our sites in Sittingbourne, Strood and Folkestone, ensure we can reach as many customers in the South East as possible."

The company recently submitted a planning application to Kent County Council for a biomass power plant at Ridham Dock. It is a joint venture with North Yorkshire-based clean energy specialist Bioflame, aiming to divert waste wood from landfill into generating electricity for more than 6,300 homes.

MORE than 20 jobs at Kent prepared food company Good Food 2 Go have been saved by insolvency and turnaround specialist SFP.

It was a fast rescue; Good Food 2 Go went into administration earlier this month due to rising food costs and falling demand.

Within a week of appointment, SFP turned the Erith-based business around with the sale of its trade and assets to food company Grassmore for an undisclosed sum.

SFP partner Simon Plant said: "For us to be able to save jobs in the current economic environment is a particularly positive outcome for both the workforce and the customers of the business.

"Unfortunately, four employees were made redundant due to unavoidable economic, technical and organisational issues, but 21 members of Good Food 2 Go's workforce will remain in employment, transferring their knowledge and skills to the new company."

UNIVERSITY of Kent Students' Union has achieved 'two-star status' from the Best Companies accreditation scheme 2010.

The status is earned by organisations demonstrating high levels of employee engagement, based on the views of employees themselves from surveys and questionnaires.

Nationwide, 1,086 companies entered the process and only 140 companies achieved the same status as the Kent Union – most were private sector organisations – and just 50 achieved coveted three-star status.

Kent Union scored highly for a flexible rewards package, allowing staff a choice of options including various pension schemes, additional student loan payments and the opportunity to buy extra holiday time.

It also aims for a healthy work/life balance, which includes generous maternity and paternity cover, grandparent leave and the option to take 'duvet days'. The latest award shows further improvement at the union following a one-star award last year.

BUSINESS Link Kent has confirmed its support for the inaugural Sevenoaks Business Show on March 24, being held in association with Sevenoaks and District Chamber of Commerce and Sevenoaks Town Council.

The show offers free entry to delegates and is being staged at the Stag Plaza in London Road, where Business Link aims to join with the local chamber and other networking groups to provide delegates with instant access to clear, simple, and trustworthy information and advice. A website for the event has been set up: www.businessshowsevenoaks.co.uk.

ONE of Kent's best known faces in the travel industry is to take the lead role in a national advertising campaign.

Liza Royce has worked at Pickford's Travel, Going Places and Thomas Cook over the years, managing branches in Margate, Ramsgate, Folkestone, Broadstairs and Canterbury. But she made her biggest career leap so far when she returned to homeworking with Future Travel and will become the face of a print ad campaign encouraging more travel professionals to work from home.

She said: "Some agencies have become too corporate and holidaymakers want an alternative to the faceless internet. Being a homeworker allows me to create the ideal holiday experience face-to-face. Future Travel is part of Co-operative Travel, which reassures holidaymakers as well as giving me access to savings provided by their buying power."

Bonus taking the sting out of self-employed PPI

THOUSANDS who opted out of 'normal' employment in order to work for themselves may be sitting on a bitter-sweet bonus.

Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) reclaim specialist Total-Reclaim says it has seen an increase in people who haven't just been missold PPI policies when they've taken out loans or credit cards, but have also been left unaware that their policy becomes invalid when they become self-employed. But they can take steps to recover some of their cash.

Daryl Vickers of Total-Reclaim said: "Anyone who is, or becomes, self-employed, retired, a student, works less than 16 hours a week, has certain medical conditions, a dangerous job or is in the Armed Forces should not be sold PPI or continue payments if their employment status changes and meets any of those criteria – they are unable to make any claim.

"And yet banks and lenders continue to missell PPIs, but also misinform, or fail to inform, people who have ongoing PPI policies.

"When somebody moves out of full-time employment and becomes self-employed they will inevitably advise their bank because there will be a change in their finances.

"The problem is the lenders have not been telling those people their PPI becomes invalid, but have nevertheless continued taking PPI policy payments against insurance that would never be paid out so long as they are self-employed. People who become self-employed may believe their loan payments are covered by PPI should they lose their income. They're not – but they're still paying premiums."

In cases where PPI has been mis-sold, Total-Reclaim says it can help people recover some of their funds. The average refund and compensation is £1,800.

Airport chief's personal plea

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

LYDD Airport MD Jonathan Gordon has made a personal plea to all 46 members of Shepway District Council to say 'yes' on Wednesday to a major expansion of the site.



Councillors will consider planning applications for a runway extension and a new terminal which, says Mr Gordon, will boost the district's future economic prospects and directly create 500 new jobs.

"We have invested £27 million in Lydd in recent years and plan to invest a further £25m in the project to deliver a modern, sustainable regional airport that Kent can be proud of," he said.

"This is a significant private sector investment in the future of Romney Marsh at no cost to the public purse. We have painstakingly prepared our applications and we are disappointed that Shepway officers are not recommending a resolution to grant." However, he was pleased that an internal report to the council showed progress had been made on some objections, though disappointed and frustrated that council planners still have concerns about noise, possible impact on the area's Site of Special Scientific Interest, and local bird life.

He said: "We note the council has accepted that most of the issues have been resolved, with the exception of the potential impact on birds.

But he added: "We are very robust in our position and I hope that when councillors have taken stock of the overwhelming body of evidence in front of them, they will see they are legally able to vote in a positive way and will be persuaded to make the right choice for the future of our community.

"We have just seen the latest jobless figures with, regrettably, another 132 added to the district's total which is now 2,751.

"A successful Lydd Airport will create more than 500 new high-quality, well-paid jobs."

Scrappage's crushing blow

CRUSHERS have been working flat out for nearly a year on cars surrendered under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

The arrangement allows owners of cars older than 10 years to scrap their 'banger' in return for a £2,000 grant towards a new replacement.

The scheme – due to end on March 31 – has been trumpeted as a major success for the Government, by saving jobs in the motor industry and retail trade and removing 370,000 older cars from the environment.

But the verdict was challenged this week by an experienced car auctioneer, who highlighted knock-on effects: a shortage of quality used cars and a dearth of affordable ageing runabouts for newly qualified and first-time drivers.



NEW WHEELS: But good little runabouts have fallen by the wayside, say auctioneers

Jon Chapman, of Hobbs Parker Car Auctions in Ashford, said Scrappage may have enjoyed an above average take up in Kent and the South East, but added: "Many highly serviceable small cars, perhaps belonging to one careful elderly owner, have ended up on the scrap heap instead of being available to a new owner for a few more years' good service."

The result is soaring prices at Hobbs Parker's twice-weekly auctions, with certain models up by 15 per cent and some as much as 25 per cent. Auction stock is also more likely to sell than before, with about 70 per cent now sold on the day.

"This is the first time in years I've witnessed such an unprecedented and sustained growth in prices," said Mr Chapman, adding that smaller, older cars were become hard to source.

And four-wheel-drive vehicles have become popular again too, after falling out of favour as alleged 'gas guzzlers'.

One Hobbs Parker customer was delighted to learn recently that his Land Rover Discovery, bought at auction just 18 months ago, was worth more than he paid for it.



Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 100 years

1910

100 YEARS AGO: The protracted saga of Chatham Town's Kent Senior Cup semi-final with Maidstone United was finally resolved, with the Chats coming out on top after 270 minutes of football.

The initial semi-final at Sittingbourne's Bull Ground finished in a 0-0 draw, forcing a replay at Priestfield.

"Rank bad shooting" cost the Stones and the first replay again ended goalless.

Around 1,800 supporters were expecting extra-time, but due to a loophole in the competition's rules, none was played.

Both teams had to agree to an additional period before the kick-off and as no agreement was made, the ruling council decided a second replay, again at Priestfield, was needed.

Chatham made the most of the reprieve and scored the first goal of the tie when Eaton glanced the ball in off his shoulder.

Hughes added a second and Carrington a third before Maidstone scored a consolation goal in stoppage time, leaving the final score 3-1 and handing Chatham a place in the final, against Northfleet United.

1960

50 YEARS AGO: Colin Cowdrey found the time, while on tour in the West Indies with England, to urge supporters back home to join Kent County Cricket Club's latest membership drive.

Warning that tough times lay ahead if Kent's finances fell behind their rivals (echoing the club's present day refrain), Cowdrey said: "After our efforts in 1959 for attracting new members, we found that our club membership has risen from 3,101 in 1958 to just 3,510 in 1959, an increase of just 709, or just over 20 per cent."

Cowdrey said this was a "splendid effort" but argued the momentum needed to be maintained if the county were to achieve its target of 10,000 members by the end of the decade.

1985

25 YEARS AGO: Alan Knott decided to play on for another season, despite speculation the former England wicket-keeper would be forced to retire due to an ankle injury.

The Belvedere-born 37-year-old agreed a one-year deal with Kent, his 21st consecutive season with the club.

An injury to Ron Hillyard forced Gillingham manager Keith Peacock to recall keeper David Fry, who, by his own admission, had had a "nightmare season."

"Ron has been playing so well I was worried whether I was ever going to get another chance," Fry admitted. "I have taken some criticism from the fans and to be honest I haven't given them cause to support me."

If you have any fascinating stories from the above years gone by, email them to us at **sports@kosmedia.co.uk**

Send all your sports stories to sports editor Glenn Pearson at **glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk** or call the sportsdesk on **01303 817183**

Overall makes GB squad for worlds

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

A WINTER spent training in the United States has paid off for Scott Overall, who was included in Great Britain's squad for the World Indoor Championships next month.

The call-up to the event in Doha, Qatar, is the biggest in the 27-year-old's career to date. Overall put his name in contention after running under the 3,000 metres qualifying standard for the second time in quick succession at the Grand Prix in Birmingham last weekend.

With Mo Farah, Britain's best runner over the distance, not planning to compete and Andy Vernon opting to focus on cross-country, Overall will be Britain's only representative in the men's 3,000m.

Personal best

The Blackheath & Bromley runner felt a good winter spent in North America, where he went to college, was key to his personal best last weekend.

He said: "It's something I've been aiming for this year. Going to the US to train and race it was the whole goal. My coach is based out there and there's quite a lot more indoor races over there than in England or Europe, which made it a lot easier to run the qualifying time."

The inclusion continues Overall's excellent form since last summer, when he won the national outdoor 5,000m title. He is pragmatic about his chances against a world-class field next month, but after gaining international experience at several European events, he does not foresee a problem with handling the occasion.

He said: "It's the biggest event of my career in terms of global competition, but it's not my first international event so I definitely won't be overawed.

"I've got to be realistic, making the final will be the first goal, that will be hard enough with the Africans in the field. I'll sit down with my coach and we'll talk about how to make the final."



QATAR BOUND: Scott Overall made the Great Britain squad for Doha Picture: Richard Lane

Kelly happy with Olympic display

KELLY Thomas performed well on her Winter Olympic debut to finish the two-man bobsleigh competition in 11th place.

Brakeman Thomas, born in Sidcup but now living in Dartford, and driver Paula Walker went into the Games hoping for a top-12 finish in Whistler.

Their preparations were disrupted by a crash in training on the fast track earlier this week, but suffered no serious damage and were fine to compete.

Thomas and Walker's first run, in the early hours of Wednesday morning GMT, saw them 14th overall, but an improved second run lifted the GBR2 sled up three places.

It was enough to see them comfortably progress to the final two runs, held on Thursday. A slow third effort saw the pair lose ground on the field, but they held their position after highly-fancied world champions GBR1 crashed out.

Thomas and Walker signed off with an improved final run, which took them to within a whisker of the top 10. They finished almost four seconds behind winners Canada, with the hosts also taking the silver medal.

The 11th place was a significant achievement for Thomas, who only took up bobsleigh three years ago after switching from sprinting.

Writing on their blog, the pair were pleased with their efforts: "Three years of hard work and now the Olympic Games are over for us, with a credible result of 11th – only 0.05 sec off 10th place.

"When we hit the Olympic target set by the British Olympic Association, we were overjoyed – just getting there was against all the odds. Now having completed all four runs we can finally relax and enjoy the Olympic experience."

The next Winter Olympics are in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.



DEBUT: Kelly Thomas (back) was happy with her first Olympic bobsleigh experience



Picture: ADY KERRY

PLAY-OFFS: Canterbury ladies could qualify

Jennings welcomes new play-off system

THE introduction of play-offs for European qualification in hockey's Premier Division have been welcomed by Canterbury ladies coach Ian Jennings.

Under the previous system the top two sides at the end of the league system qualified for the Euro Hockey League. After the clubs agreed to make changes at the start of this season, England Hockey confirmed the dates of the new play-offs this week. Now only the league winner will get automatic qualification, with the other place decided by a series of post-season games between the top five sides.

Before this weekend's round of games, Canterbury ladies were fifth in the table, which would be enough to see them qualify in the new system.

Jennings is pleased with the new format, which he believes will add excitement to the regular season.

He said: "It's a good thing. Sometimes teams do run away with it at the top – Leicester are annihilating the league this year. From a personal point of view we're fighting for fourth or fifth with four teams, so it certainly keeps the competition alive.

"It doesn't devalue the league competition, as long as you're getting a European reward for winning the league, which they are, then that's great. They can then go to the play-offs and reaffirm they're the best, but if you don't win you're still in Europe."

The Polo Farm boss did express a query as to why there is a four-week gap between the end of the regular season and the start of the play-offs on April 24. While it could cause problems keeping squads sharp, England Hockey confirmed the scheduling was to accommodate Easter and the GB Super League.



LEGEND: John Surtees

‘Looking back, it was a satisfying time to race’

In the first of a three-part series looking back at ex-Formula One champion John Surtees’ career, **TOM HOWARD** talks to Edenbridge’s motorsport legend about his early years

WITH his father a British sidecar champion before the outbreak of World War Two, John Surtees always had racing in the blood.

John senior helped train motorcycle dispatch riders during the war, and moved the family from their bomb-damaged Croydon home to Catterick in North Yorkshire.

It was while his father was working that John Jr’s obsession with motorcycles began. A young Surtees, who was born in Tatsfield, near Westerham, would help prepare his dad’s Norton motorcycle, while his father trained riders.

Towards the end of the war, the Surtees family returned to the South East to a council house near their old Croydon home. He then helped his father in the family business, working on bikes.

John Sr continued to race all over the country and it was a trip to Trent Park in London, which led to his son’s racing debut. Surtees’ father was due to take part in a speed trial in his sidecar, but his passenger failed to turn up, so his son, aged 14, stepped into the breach. They won the event but were disqualified as Surtees junior was too young to compete.

John Jr was a talented footballer and even had trials with Crystal Palace before he became completely hooked on motorcycle racing. He rode his first bike at 13 round the spectator path at Brands Hatch and was instantly obsessed with racing. He then entered his first race aged 15 at a grass track in Luton, enjoying mixed results.

He said: “I think the thing I learned the most was how to fall off. It was very wet and I must have fallen off at every corner.

“Afterwards my father said ‘I think the bike is a bit too big for you lad’, so we went back and we managed to get hold of little Triumph road bike. I paid for it with my money earned from work and I was given a shed to keep it in and prepare it for races.”

After a number of grass track outings, he entered the Triumph into the very first road race at Brands Hatch in 1950, alongside now Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone.

Surtees said: “It went well and I got to the final of the 250cc race. For a moment I took the lead, but the only problem was I wasn’t with my bike. It had started raining and at the bottom of Paddock Hill I overdid it.”

His first real break in motorcycle racing came when he joined famous British manufacturer Vincent on an engineering apprenticeship. While working there he purchased a development bike and his racing career took off.

It didn’t take long for the young rider to turn heads, achieving his first win at Aberdare Park in Wales in August 1950.

A British title race at Thruxton in Hampshire in 1951 catapulted him into the limelight, when he put up a strong challenge against world champion Geoff Duke, only to crash out of the race. He also enjoyed battles with ‘King of Brands’ Derek Minter from Canterbury.

A move to the Norton works team followed after he beat Duke in three consecutive races in 1954 and he entered the World Championship for the first time. However, he found it hard to keep up with the bikes from the Continent. After two years with Norton, which saw him secure three podiums, including his first win at Ulster, he joined Italian marque MV Agusta.

“They had a tough time when I joined them as they lost their best rider in a crash on the Isle of Man and their next best rider was killed in the following race,” he said.

“They had never had any success, so in a way I had to develop my world championship career around a team who were rebuilding themselves. It was interesting and over the years we made the bike very good.”

In his first season with MV Agusta in 1956 he became world 500cc champion, winning three races including the notorious Isle of Man TT. More success followed as he dominated the world championship from 1958-1960, securing six world titles and winning 32 of 39 races.

“I have to say, looking back it was a very satisfying time to be racing,” he said. “Money was important back then and possibly more than today. There was a stage in the early days where if I didn’t win the race, I couldn’t afford to go to the next one.”

During the most successful period of his motorcycle career, he became the first man to win three consecutive Isle of Man TT’s. Looking back on the notoriously dangerous event, he recalls not being aware of the scale of his achievement.

He said: “The Isle of Man requires a different mentality of racing – it’s not a place to treat with disrespect. You had to do it as it was part of the world championship season.”

His motorcycle career came to an end in 1960 when a dispute arose over his contract with MV Agusta and he moved on to racing cars.

After a couple of outings in a Cooper Formula Junior car, a successful career on four wheels ensued.

• Pick up a copy of next week’s paper to find out how Surtees coped with the switch to the glamorous world of Formula One and how he became the only man to win world championships on two wheels and four.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES



CHAMPION ELECT: John Surtees on his MV Agusta during the final lap of a 250cc event at Crystal Palace in 1956, the year he won his first world championship

1950-60

JOHN SURTEES’ MOTORCYCLE CAREER

1950: First race at the age of 16
1952: First World Championship race – Ulster Grand Prix, 6th-place finish
1954: Debut in Isle of Man TT, 11th-place finish
1955: First win at Ulster Grand Prix
1956: World 500cc champion – three wins, first Isle of Man TT win
1957: Third in World 500cc Championship
1958: World 350cc and 500cc champion – 12 wins, including two Isle of Man TT wins
1959: World 350cc and 500cc champion – 13 wins, including two Isle of Man TT wins
1960: World 350cc and 500cc champion – seven wins, including one Isle of Man TT win (first to win Isle of Man TT three years in a row)

Clubs do battle for Kent Cup place

WITH the rugby season nearing its business end, the Kent Cup final is now just two games away for six sides as the remaining three third-round ties are contested this afternoon.

Already through to the last four of the competition are London 2 South East side Sevenoaks – the lowest-ranked team remaining after they crushed Charlton Park 84-0 last Sunday.

Oaks have already beaten Sidcup and Canterbury and will once again be the underdogs whoever they draw in the semi-finals.

Two National League sides remain in the draw, with Blackheath travelling to Old Colfeians today while Westcombe Park go to Old Elthamians.

While the visiting sides start as favourites, both faced long journeys for league fixtures yesterday with Blackheath making the 250-mile round-trip to Nuneaton, and Westcombe Park spending six hours on the road for their trip to Lydney in Gloucestershire.

By contrast, all four London 1 South sides in action today were at home yesterday, with Elthamians and Colfeians taking on Cobham and Dover respectively.

Gravesend and Thanet Wanderers have already met in the league this season, with the Gs running out 10-5 winners at St Peter’s.

Elsewhere, Kent 1 side Sittingbourne will fancy their chances of reaching the Kent Vase semi-finals but Orpington, their hosts, are enjoying a fine season in Kent 2.

The semi-finals of the Vase and Cup take place on March 13 and April 18 respectively.



ON THE BALL: Sittingbourne’s Scott Truss

Picture: DAVE HICKS



BIG HOPE: England ace Ashley Jackson

Rising star Jackson in World Cup action

ENGLAND'S new star Ashley Jackson makes his debut at the Hockey World Cup this afternoon with the side looking to live up to their pre-tournament hype.

The 22-year-old is expected to be one of the national side's trump cards at the tournament in India after a superb 12 months which saw him named 2009's World Young Player of the Year.

England also head into the tournament in Delhi in optimistic mood after becoming European champions last summer. They have not reached the semi-finals at a World Cup since 1986, but Jackson, born in Chatham, believes the team have momentum on their side.

He said: "It's something we've been looking to do for a few years now; get a winning habit and everything that goes along with it. For the first time in a long time we're going into a major tournament with expectations of reaching the semi-finals. It's really kicked on from the whole of last summer, even before the Europeans."

Pool matches against South Africa, Pakistan, India and Spain follow over the next eight days, with the top two heading through to the semi-finals.

Log on to www.kentnews.co.uk throughout the tournament to follow Jackson's progress.



TOUGH: Kent (in yellow) take on Liverpool

Kent U18s in bid for second final in a row

KENT'S under-18s have the chance to reach back-to-back FA County Youth Cup finals for the first time in their history when they face Liverpool today.

The county has never won the competition and before last season had not reached its finale since 1982.

They ended that run last year and wins against Somerset, Sussex and Durham have taken them into the latter stages again.

A strong Liverpool side stands in their way of a second successive appearance in the showpiece. Manager Ken Brooke is delighted with his side's form and believes a desire to make up for a flat performance in last year's final – a 2-1 defeat to Birmingham at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium – has driven the team on this season.

He said: "We just felt we didn't do ourselves justice last year, I think we played the occasion rather than Birmingham and if we overcome Liverpool we'll be better prepared this year.

"It would be fantastic to reach the final again. The message is clear: Kent is at the forefront at this level and we intend to stay there."

The team will be without winger Ben Greenhalgh, who played in the early rounds but is now unavailable after earning a contract with Inter Milan after winning Sky TV's Football's Next Star competition.

Bad break for Gills skipper



FREAK INCIDENT: Barry Fuller said he heard his arm make a crack during a challenge
Picture: ADY KERRY

Fuller to miss crucial games as club look for wins in the fight to avoid relegation

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

GILLINGHAM captain Barry Fuller is still reeling from the news he will miss a chunk of the club's crucial run-in to the end of the season after suffering a broken arm in the midweek draw against Leyton Orient.

The 25-year-old broke a bone in his left forearm and while X-rays revealed a clean break, the full-back had to wait until he saw a specialist – after Kent on Sunday went to press – before knowing how long it will keep him on the sidelines.

Gillingham were not ruling out the possibility of surgery beforehand, which would jeopardise Fuller's chances of returning again this season.

The club will look into the possibility of Fuller returning with a light cast before the break completely heals, but even in the best-case scenario he is likely to miss most of the final 12 games of the season.

Fuller, who has played in every league game this season, said: "It's disappointing because there's only nine or 10 weeks left. I'm probably going to miss half that or maybe more.

"It's really gutting to get this, especially when it seemed like a nothing challenge. I went to play the ball down the line and their centre-forward went to block me, as he raised his leg his knee smashed into my forearm.

Crack

"I thought I heard it crack but I tried to play on. When I was running it didn't feel right, it felt floppy. I was trying to convince myself it wasn't broken. I played on for about five minutes but then I had to let the physio know."

It is not the first time Fuller has suffered bad luck. His X-rays were done at William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, where he spent four days last January hooked up to an oxygen tank after being diagnosed with severe bacterial pneumonia.

The previous season he missed the last month of the campaign after undergoing surgery to correct fingers badly broken while playing against Millwall.

Fuller has been one of the side's most consistent performers this season and will be missed at a crucial stage of the season. Gills boss Mark Stimson, who made Danny Jackman interim captain, admitted it was a blow to lose his skipper's influence.

He said: "He's someone who's got a passion and desire. If you see him in training, he's the best. He gives it absolutely everything because he knows he has to do that to play at this level."

The Ashford-born defender's frustration has been tempered with the agreement of a new two-year contract. Fuller's deal expires this summer, but terms have been agreed on a renewal, which is unaffected by the injury.

Stimson said: "We've already spoken to Barry in the last two weeks and I think the deal's already been done while the chairman's been over. This won't stay in the way of that."

Ownership strategy vital to Fleet future

EBBSFLEET United have reached a crossroads in their history as bosses decide whether to persist with the MyFootballClub ownership strategy or look for new ways to take the club forward, ***writes Steve Tervet.***

Following last Friday's renewal cut-off date for subscriptions to the MyFC website, membership levels have dropped significantly and the £300,000 needed to secure Liam Daish's playing squad for next season is unlikely to be raised by renewals alone.

The Fleet manager was shorn of almost his entire squad at the end of last season, with Lance Cronin and Darius Charles the only senior players to remain at the club.

However, the financial picture is even bleaker now and with no players under contract beyond April, Daish's minute budget would result in every player departing Stonebridge Road.

He said: "Good players are at a premium and when you have them, you have to make sure you keep them. You can't just keep producing football teams to keep this club in a national division, a division which is getting stronger – it's a great league.

"I've built two or three teams during my time here but it gets harder and harder. We have got to learn from what happened last year, but if something doesn't change it will happen again."

On the pitch, Ebbsfleet have surged up the Blue Square Premier table since December and are well-set to avoid relegation, although the season's footballing successes are likely to be overshadowed by their off-field worries.

Vice-chairman Roly Edwards admitted the MyFC story may have run its course, having seen membership levels drop from an initial 30,000 in 2008 to less than 5,000 members.

"I think we have to say that," he said. "At the end of the day, these numbers can only take us so far. I want the club to maintain its status [at this level] but not everybody sees it the same way.

"It was marvellous when it first came along but there have been issues over the past year or two and I don't think MyFC ever quite got it right. The excitement has waned and we seem to have been found wanting."



Picture: DAVE PLUMB

LOW BUDGET: Liam Daish has little cash to strengthen the threadbare Ebbsfleet squad

Brand new adventure

KELLY'S EYE

In her exclusive column for KOS Media, Hildenborough's Olympic hero, Dame Kelly Holmes, talks about building a legacy away from the athletics track, why she is glad her British 800-metre record was broken, and the latest on security concerns for the Commonwealth Games in India

AFTER dedicating my life to being the best I could be in both the Army and as an athlete, it's time to focus my attention on achieving another goal.

I achieved so much in the Army in becoming a physical training instructor and then went on to become a double gold Olympic champion in athletics, so to not have something now as a goal in life is just not me.

I can only see my life being fulfilled if I can say there's something else I have achieved, that I have perhaps started from scratch.

That, as far as I can see, will have to be in the business world because there isn't anything else for me to do. It's not like I am going to go into another sport and be an Olympic champion, unfortunately, because the wheels on the body aren't going to let that happen.

What I can tell you is that I have started making moves on how I can create, in a sense, my own business or a brand.

People will always know me for winning two gold medals, but if that's all they know about me in five years time, that doesn't move me on as a person and make me feel as though I have achieved something.

I have had to learn, from scratch, new business skills as I look to build my own brand and that is something I am working hard on right now.

There are opportunities to branch out into the fitness industry in terms of developing equipment, products and clothing lines, so there are plenty of exciting challenges ahead.

All I can say at the moment though, is watch this space and let's see in five years time where this new venture has got me.

In my last column I wrote about this year's Commonwealth Games at Delhi in India and how some athletes have voiced their concerns about attending. Well, I'm disappointed to say that hasn't abated and, for some reason, a few athletes have said they don't want to compete because of security concerns.

As president of the England team, I get regular reports from our security team out in Delhi and we haven't had one single report to suggest we should be pulling out at this stage.

As far as we are concerned the Games are going ahead and we will be sending an England team out there. It's only if our security guys come back and tell us that there is a genuine threat to our athletes then that would of course be a reason to pull out, but there has been nothing coming back to suggest that.

It would also become a political issue if we pulled out and it would have an effect on us as a nation for the 2012 Olympic Games.



BUSINESSWOMAN: Kelly Holmes wants to build her own brand
Picture: GETTY IMAGES

It was pleasing to see middle distance runner Jenny Meadows win at the UK Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham last weekend – I think she is a real prospect for the world indoor title next month.

I was among the crowd watching her take my British indoor record for the 800-metres, and I really think it's great she broke it.

People have asked 'what do you think about your record being broken' and my answer to that is: I wouldn't be mentoring 45 middle distance junior athletes if I didn't think records could be broken.

For me, it's just great to see a British athlete displaying the ability to be the best in the world. The record was attainable and she is now showing she is capable of doing well at the World Indoor Championships and we need that for the sport.

If we don't have people producing good results and being consistent, our sport isn't going to move forward and we'll be in big trouble.

She has the ability to win gold and is at a really good standard. All she needs to do now is think about her tactics and that's what it will be down to on that last lap.

I definitely think she will get a medal and that would be great for middle distance running in this country.

I would also like to say good luck to all the runners taking part in the Tunbridge Wells half-marathon today.

I will be there to start the race and look forward to meeting you all. A special good luck to those running for my charity, the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust. Let's hope the weather holds out.

• ***Dame Kelly Holmes, the county's double Olympic gold medallist, is one of KOS Media's regular sports columnists.***

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

KOS Media, the publisher of this newspaper, has set up an online petition we will take right to the top of world athletics as part of our campaign for Dame Kelly Holmes to receive the gold medal she was denied by a drugs cheat.

Holmes won a silver medal at the World Indoor Championships in 2003, finishing behind Regina Jacobs.



The American athlete tested positive for steroids weeks later, but the result still stands in the record books.

KOS Media will lobby world governing body the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) to strip Jacobs of her medal and officially recognise Holmes as the champion.

Support is growing across the county and numbers on our Facebook group are increasing, but we need you to sign our online petition if we are to right this wrong.

All you have to do is visit www.epetitions.net and search 'KOS Media Campaign for Kelly' and add your name to the growing support for our campaign.



NEW GENERATION: Jenny Meadows beat Kelly Holmes' British indoor 800m record

• Dame Kelly has set up her charity, the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust at www.dkhlegacytrust.org to inspire young people to find and fulfil their potential in sport and in life



BACK TROUBLE: Lisa Dobriskey

Injured Dobriskey in no rush to return

LISA Dobriskey is unlikely to compete again until the outdoor track season begins in May after pulling out of the Grand Prix in Birmingham last weekend.

The 26-year-old was hoping to run at the World Indoor Championships in Doha in March.

After missing the national trials in Sheffield earlier this month with a back injury, the Grand Prix was Dobriskey's last chance to prove her fitness to Great Britain selectors.

Despite injections helping the 1500-metre runner to overcome the back problem, with just one competitive run indoors this winter she was reluctant to rush back too quickly.

She said: "I didn't want to put myself in that environment and race under pressure if I didn't feel I was quite ready or had any indication to suggest I was ready.

"I picked up a bit of a cold last week as well, the odds just seemed completely against it, so we abandoned that idea. It could've gone a bit wrong."

She is now focused on peaking in time for the European Athletics Championships in July, the highlight of the 2010 season.

Dobriskey, from Ashford, will prepare for the outdoor season with speed work in Portugal, followed by a month of altitude training in France later in the spring.

Winter training can have a significant bearing on how athletes perform during the all-important outdoor championships in the summer.

Although by her own admission the last few months have been interrupted by niggles, the Kent athlete is content with her fitness.

She said: "When I look back to last year I don't even think I was running at this time, so I'm quite happy with how things are going.

"It's just been a bit disruptive here and there, nobody ever has a perfect winter, you always miss the odd week with a cold or something, so I'm reasonably happy with how things have gone."

IT'S MILLER TIME

Booed by the fans, moved on to another club, but now Adam Miller has vowed to earn himself a permanent place at Gills

EXCLUSIVE

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

ADAM Miller has his sights on proving the boo boys wrong and earning himself a new Gillingham contract after returning from exile to enjoy a run back in the first team.

The 28-year-old's time at Gillingham appeared to be over in the autumn when, after a spell out of the side, he moved on loan to Dagenham & Redbridge. While at the League Two club he went public to say he felt his time at Priestfield was over and made it clear he wanted to make his loan move permanent.

The transfer never materialised and after a poor run of results, Gills boss Mark Stimson handed the midfielder his chance back in the side.

Miller is now looking to secure a new deal, something he never thought would have happened a couple of months ago.

"It doesn't take a brain surgeon to work it out," he said. "I was on the bench, coming on every now and then, when I wasn't even on the bench, I was in the stands, I wasn't travelling to away games with the squad.

"When I did the interview it was how I felt at the time and if you asked anyone at the time if my time at the club was done, they would have said yes.

"The way I'm looking at it now, I'm playing for a contract. I'd love to stay on and do better with Gillingham, I've never said anything different."

Stimson turned to Miller earlier this month when the season was at its lowest ebb. The Gills boss was facing growing discontent on the terraces, which reached its most vociferous during a defeat at home to Tranmere Rovers.

Miller has always divided opinion among the Gills fans, but he felt the full force of their wrath as he was brought on as a substitute.

He said: "I'm a big boy, I know there's people out there who don't like me, it's not a problem, that's their opinion. Don't get me wrong, I think it's poor you treat one of your players like that – what if I'd come on and scored the equaliser?

"Would they have sat in their seat or jump up – I bet they would've jumped.

"In a weird kind of way I quite liked it because as a player you want the attention on yourself – good or bad – so it was the best thing they could've done for me.

"I was laughing inside and thinking 'wow, these people really don't like me'."

Freshness

Oddly, the lowest point for Miller was not getting booed by thousands of supporters.

It came in January when it was suggested the remaining six months of his contract could be settled, allowing him to become a free agent.

The thought of leaving under a cloud did not appeal.

He said: "I didn't want to be paid as a professional footballer to sit in the stands every Saturday, I want to play and earn my money. It was a dent to your pride, I wasn't wanted so it felt like my only option.

"It's why I pushed it away.

"I think there is a change in attitude. I had a good chat with the gaffer.

"Since I've come back I've felt a total freshness about it, maybe there was a bit of hostility there between everyone, ups and downs, being in and out the team, maybe it was what was needed.

"The gaffer did always say he'd never shut the door on me and to be fair he's stayed true to his word. I'm so grateful I want to take it with both hands and achieve something by staying up in a great league."



STAYING POWER: Adam Miller wants to cement his place in the Gills first-team and earn a new contract

Picture: ADY KERRY

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Dallaglio's 'epic journey' for Sport Relief makes cycle stop at rugby club

A KENT rugby club welcomed a World Cup winner on Thursday afternoon as Lawrence Dallaglio cycled through the gates as part of his journey to raise money for Sport Relief, ***writes Steve Tervet***.

The former Wasps and England captain arrived at Folkestone Rugby Club's New Burlington Road ground at the head of the Cycle Slam peleton after pedalling for 12 days through the hills of Italy and France, attempting to raise £1 million for Sport Relief and the Dallaglio Foundation.

The 37-year-old, who turned out for England 85 times, set up the foundation in support of Cancer Research UK following the recent death of his mother, Eileen.

Having braved heavy snow and driving rain on the journey across Europe, the former flanker admitted he was delighted to be back on British soil.

He said: "It's been an epic journey – we've had every conceivable weather that could have been thrown at us, but the enthusiasm and the energy of the group has been fantastic.

"I'm not really built for cycling so it's been tough, especially the hills.

"We've been doing up to 200km a day, but it's also been very enjoyable and rewarding."

The peleton spent Thursday evening in Maidstone before cycling on to London for England's Six Nations clash against Ireland at Twickenham yesterday.

To donate, text SLAM to 70005 or visit www.dallagliocycleslam.com.



ROAD TRIP: Dallaglio's peleton during the Kent leg

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

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